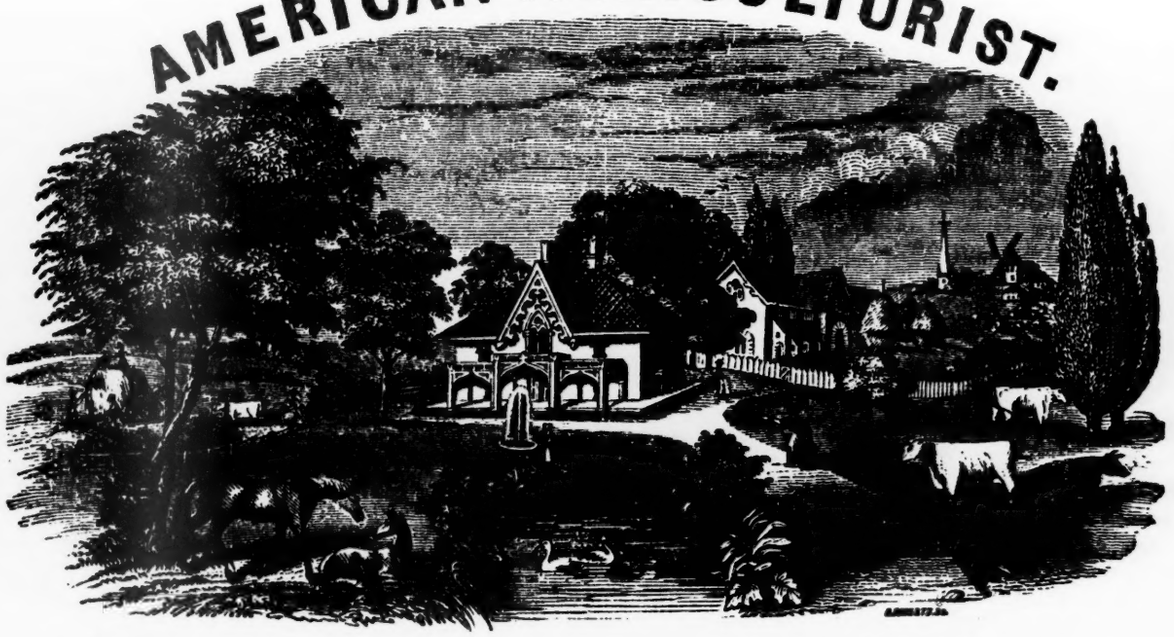
AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.



Agriculture is the most healthful, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man.—WASHINGTON.

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A. B. ALLEN, Editor. SAXTON & MILES, Publishers, 205 Broadway.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

IT is so much trouble to get a Post Office order paid, and it requires so much formality, that our subscribers will please hereafter remit all moneys directly to Saxton and Miles, at their risk and expense; taking care, if possible, that the package does not exceed the weight of a half ounce, thus subjecting them to single postage only. Our agents also will please bear this in mind. We trust, under these circumstances, that all will be careful to remit bills of specie paying banks, otherwise the discount on them and postage will make a large deduction from the subscription price of the Agriculturist. We hope that this liberal arrangement on the part of the publishers will stimulate our friends to renewed exertions in behalf of this periodical.

PRESERVATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

WHO does not love good fruits and vegetables? and yet how few take the proper pains to preserve them. We have given many different methods in the former pages of this journal, all very excellent, but have never tried the following, except in one instance of a large quantity of sugar beet, which was forced upon us by accident rather than design. It succeeded, however, admirably; and this emboldens us to give place to the method, which we quote from the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

A gentleman from the northern part of Indiana recently communicated to us a fact in regard to the preservation of apples, which will be new to many of our readers, and valuable to all farmers. He says, that, to keep apples from autumn to June, he places them in a shallow hole, dug as for Irish potatoes, having covered the bottom with corn-stalks or straw, and the straw with dirt to the depth of five or six inches. No shelter is placed over them. As soon as the severe weather arrives, and the ground, and perhaps the apples themselves, become thoroughly frozen, straw is again placed over the frozen heap, and the whole again covered with a coating of earth —this time, ten or twelve inches thick. The object is to keep the first coating of earth frozen until spring, and then to cause it to thaw very slowly.

The same treatment may be given to turnips, Irish potatoes, beets, and carrots. Any of these roots may be thoroughly frozen without injury, provided they are then covered well over, and suffered to thaw by slow degrees.

Sweet potatoes are almost the only exception among roots to this rule. They are injured by a small degree of cold, and without being frozen. It is only the sudden thawing that causes the dissolution of the apple or potatoe that has been frozen. If in the frozen state an Irish potatoe is put into cold water, until the frost is out, and is then cooked, it will be as good as if it had never been frozen. All these are facts which we know from our own experience, and that of many others.

TO PRESERVE GREEN CORN.

THE usual method of preserving green corn is, first to boil it, then cut the grain from the cob by hand with a sharp knife, and spread it out to dry. This is rather a tedious process; but when well done it keeps sweet for a long time, and proves a delicious dish boiled. Recently, pickling corn has been resorted to in order to preserve it, and is said by those who have tried it to answer well. The ears are gathered green and packed down in clean, tight casks, in brine sufficiently strong to preserve cucumbers. The brine must cover the corn completely, so as to seclude it from the air and prevent fermentation or decomposition. It will thus keep for a long time, and be sufficiently fresh for the table when boiled.

FARM OF MR. HAMMOND.

This farm lies in the town of Worcester, Massachusetts, and is one mile from the Court House. It comprises 121 acres, 17 of which are in wood land, 8, if we remember right, still in unreclaimed bog meadow, and 4 are taken up with yards and buildings, leaving, in fact, only 92 acres actually in tillage. We are thus particular in this statement, in order to show our readers how much may be realized from a moderate sized farm, of an ordinary quality of soil, when eligibly situated and properly managed.

But first of the man. Mr. Hammond is an excellent specimen of a hard-working New England farmer. He began the world with little or nothing saving his own hands, a good constitution, active and industrious habits, and indomitable perseverance. He informed us that for the first six years after becoming of age, he worked out by the month for other farmers, and from his wages at the end of this time had saved enough to set up for himself; but it was not till 1835 that he was enabled to purchase his present farm. When he came on to it the land was in quite an exhausted condition, the fences indifferent, and the buildings so miserable that neither man nor beast could inhabit them with any comfort. Now he has erected on it a noble barn of handsome architecture, 90 by 42 feet, which will hold 80 tons of hay, and has in addition numerous stalls for his cattle; built him a pretty two story house, and several outbuildings; made new fences; planted an ample garden with fruits and flowers; set out a large orchard of choice apple-trees; drained nearly worthless bog meadows, and transformed them into the best of grass land; cleared off the stone and enriched his land so highly that he gets on an average, 2 to 3 tons of hay per acre, 45 to 60 bushels of corn, and 40 to 50 of barley, where previously not half, and in some instances not one-third of these crops were gathered; and accomplished other things too numerous to mention: and all this, it must be understood, besides respectably supporting and educating his family, has been done from the earnings of the farm. Not a dollar is he in debt for it, and not a dollar has he brought in by foreign business to improve it, unless a few trades in selling off his aged animals, and buying younger ones to replace them, can be so considered.

How has this been done, we hear our readers ask. As we said in the beginning, Mr. Hammond's farm is within a mile of the town of Worcester, which affords a ready market for his hay, at the average price of $15 per ton, corn 75 cents per bushel, rye 87 cents, barley 75 cents, oats 33 cents, potatoes 30 cents, turnips 17 cents, milk 4½ cents per quart, and a good price for all the vegetables grown in a garden of between two and three acres. The farm now produces 75 to 80 tons of hay per annum; 150 to 200 bushels of corn; some barley, rye, or oats; 800 to 1000 bushels potatoes; 400 to 500 bushels turnips; vegetables from the garden, and considerable fruit. The stock is two horses, 4 oxen, 17 cows, and a few swine. The cows are kept for the purpose of supplying the citizens of Worcester with milk.

When Mr. Hammond began his operations here, he informed us that in order to fertilize the nearly exhausted soil, he took his produce to market, and after disposing of it, brought back manure. But this proving a laborious job, and learning the value of muck as a fertilizer, and having any quantity of it in a bog meadow, he commenced carting it into the barn-yard during the summer, fall, and winter, as he found time, spread the stable manure upon it, and thus ever since has made several hundred loads, annually, of a compost quite equal, he thinks, to ordinary barn-yard manure.

The rotation of crops here is adapted to the situation and market. Grass land is plowed in the fall, the next spring highly manured broad-cast, again plowed, and then well harrowed and planted with corn. The second year it is sown with barley. This grain is worth nearly as much as rye, and suiting this kind of soil well, nearly double the number of bushels per acre can be obtained of it that can be grown of rye. Grass seed is sown with the barley, and after that the land is kept in grass as long as it is thought profitable. Mr. Hammond's method of raising turnips is in accordance with an old practice in Massachusetts. The fore part of July the cultivator is passed up and down between the rows of corn, which cuts up all remaining weeds, and leaves the land free and light. Turnip-seed, of the common field kind, is then sown, and the men follow and give the corn its last hoeing. In performing this operation they cover the turnip-seed sufficiently well, and it usually produces about 100 bushels to the acre. One season Mr. H. got 650 bushels from four acres. We think it requires a very fertile soil or high manuring to warrant one in taking two crops at the same time; and though it may be presumptuous to differ from so good an authority, still we think if a single acre were devoted to ruta-baga, it would be better than raising the common turnip among corn, as the former is much superior to the latter in nutritive qualities, it keeps later and better, and 600 bushels may be obtained on an average from a single acre, and perhaps 800 to 1000 as highly as Mr. H. would cultivate them.

There are many other little things about this farm which we would gladly speak of had we space; suffice it to say, that Mr. H., so far from being satisfied with what he has already accomplished, thinks he is merely prepared now to realize something for his improvements. He will undoubtedly derive a handsome income from his farm hereafter, and manage it with much less labor. Yet this great truth has already been exemplified by him, namely, that land of a moderate degree of fertility, properly managed, can be greatly improved from its own resources, and at the same time respectably support those who cultivate it. For one, we feel grateful to Mr. H. for doing what he has, and we recommend all in his vicinity to visit his farm, and make themselves familiar with his practice; for a better example, as far as he has gone, we know not among our whole acquaintance.

Samuel B. Parsons, Esq., of Flushing, Long Island, has now returned from his European tour, and gives us hope of a continuation of his elegant letters. They will be found especially instructive to horticulturists. Mr. Parsons has selected large quantities of fruits, vines, shrubs, &c. &c., during his absence, and the establishment at Flushing, being extended to about fifty acres, is more worthy than ever of a visit from all amateurs of these things. The culture of *good* fruit must for a long time be a source of profit to those engaged in it, and we are glad to see an increasing interest in this matter.

WHAT IS PERFECTION IN CATTLE?

We doubt whether there is a person living—man, woman, or child, however ignorant or learned, or whatever may be his profession—who has not established in his own mind, the *beau ideal* of a bull, an ox, and a cow. But call upon such persons to define this *beau ideal*—this perfect animal—and not one in a million can do it, and then that one in the million will in all probability be oftener wrong than right. Why? Because, however many cattle the said person may have handled and bred, he has, after all, no *exact scientific notions* on the subject—no rule, or in other words, no *Scale of Points* by which to be guided in judging of the perfections or imperfections of an animal; and the only attempt which we have met with to establish one, has been done by the Jersey Agricultural Society. But this scale is quite partial, and applied to an inferior breed; it cannot therefore be exactly followed in judging of superior animals. We have long felt that until a *scale of points* could be established, to guide judges at cattle shows in their decisions, there would not only invariably be great dissatisfaction on the part of exhibitors in the decisions of the judges, but it would be utterly impossible for breeders themselves to make the improvements in their animals, which otherwise they would be enabled to accomplish. They are now like a fleet of vessels on the broad ocean—without quadrant and compass, and under orders for the *best port* in the country, and no instructions which that "best port" may be, but every Captain allowed to decide the point for himself.

We have hoped for several years past, that the English Agricultural Society would take up this subject and establish a scale of points; and we have endeavored repeatedly to get those breeders abroad with whom we are acquainted to move in the matter; but as yet have met with no success. If England, however, be not willing to do so, it is no reason that America should stand still. We, therefore, after much hesitancy and consulting with several of the best breeders in the United States, give the following rude outlines for the formation of a scale of points, which shall be the criteria to judge of and regulate the breeding of cattle. In drawing it up, it will be seen that several of the articles have been taken almost *verbatim* from that of the Jersey Society, to which we wish to give all the credit that is justly due it. We hope it may have the happy tendency to set breeders thinking on the subject, trusting hereafter that a convention of them may settle on something which shall prove an infallible guide to regulate their movements, in producing cattle. In reading over this scale, many will ask, why is this article put down at 1, or that at 4, or another at 6, &c.? We can only answer for the present, that it would require a volume to give the reasons, and after all, we could not explain ourselves fully; for in order to make a good breeder, a person must have a *natural talent* for such things, the same as for mathematics, oratory, music, or painting; precept and practice with him must then go along together—and a *great deal of them.* We once heard a person observe, after looking over two or three herds of cattle and holding a little chat with their breeders, "Ah, now I know all about it." Vain, conceited, superficial man! The best of us may study and practise our whole lives in breeding animals, and then we have a *great deal to learn.*

In drawing up this Scale of Points, it has been done for the Durham breed of cattle, because they are the most perfect. It may answer, however, with the distinctions below, equally well for Herefords and Devons—the only other breeds worth talking about. For Herefords, this distinction should be made: a white and rather long upturned horn; a white as well as yellow nose; color mainly red, with or without a line back; but some (if not all) white invariably in the face or under the belly. For Devons, a long yellowish-white horn, generally turned very much up, yet not unfrequently standing out horizontally or nearly so from the head; color a deep, bright red, with a patch of white about as large as the hand occasionally showing on the navel and directly around it, and silver hairs in the tail. Anything showing differently than the above it may be assured is a grade or unimproved beast, and should be invariably stamped as such. For a figure illustrating what is technically termed the *points* of cattle, we refer to volume second, page 70.

Scale of Points for Durham Bulls.

	Points.
ART. 1.—Purity of breed on male and female side; sire and dam reputed for docility of disposition, early maturity, and aptitude to fatten. Sire a good stock-getter. Dam a good breeder, and giving a large quantity of milk, or such as is superior for making butter or cheese, - - -	7
ART. 2.—Head muscular and fine. The horns fine and gradually diminishing to a point; of a flat, rather than of a round shape at the base; short, and inclined to turn up; those of a clear, waxy color to be preferred, but such as are of a transparent white slightly tinged with yellow, admissible. Ears small, thin, and covered with soft hair; playing quick and moving freely. Forehead short and broad, especially between the eyes, and slightly dished. Eyes bright, placid, and rather prominent than otherwise, with a yellow rim round them. Lower part of the face clean, dished, and well developing the course of the veins. Muzzle small. Nose of a clear orange or light chocolate color. Nostrils wide and open. Lower jaw thin. Teeth clean and sound, - - - -	5
ART. 3.—Neck fine, and slightly arched; strongly and well set on to the head and shoulders; harmoniously widening, deepening, and rounding as it approaches the latter point. No dewlap, -	2
ART. 4.—Chest broad, deep, and projecting—the brisket on a lower line than the belly, - -	5
ART. 5.—Shoulders broad, strong, fine, and well placed. Fore legs short, straight, and standing rather wide apart than narrow. Fore arm muscular, broad, and powerful; slightly swelling and full above the knee; the bone fine and flat. Knees well knit and strong. Foot flat and in shape of an oblong semi-circle; horn of the hoof sound, and of a clear, waxy color, - - - -	2
ART. 6.—Barrel round and deep, and well ribbed up to the hips, - - - -	4
ART. 7.—Back short, strong, straight and broad from the withers to the setting of the tail. Crops round and full. Loins broad. Huckle bones on a level with the back. Tail well set, on a level with the back, or very slightly below it; fine, and gradually diminishing to a point, and hanging without the brush an inch or so below the hock, at right angles with the back, - - -	4
ART. 8.—Hind quarters from the huckle to the point of the rump long and well filled up. Twist well let down and full. Hind legs short, straight, and well spread apart; gradually swelling and rounding above the hock; the bone fine and flat be-	4

low. Foot flat, and in shape making an oblong semi-circle. Horn of the hoof sound, and of a clear, waxy color. Legs not to cross each other in walking, nor to straddle behind, - - - 3

Art. 9.—Skin of a medium thickness; moveable and mellow; a white color is admissible, but a rich cream or orange much preferable. Hair well covering the hide; soft and fine, and if undercoated with soft, thick fur in the winter, so much the better. Color, pure white, red roan, bright red, or reddish yellow and white. (A black or dark brown nose or rim round the eye; black or dark brown tips of the horns; black or dark spots on the skin and hair decidedly objectionable, and indicative of coarse meat and bad blood). - - - 3

Art. 10.—Good handling, - - - 4

Art. 11.—Sure stock-getter, - - 4

Art. 12.—Stock, when made steers, certain to be good workers in the yoke, and feed kindly for beeves at any age, and make prime beef, - 5

Art. 13.—General appearance, - - 2

Perfection, - - - - 50

Scale of Points for Durham Cows.

Points.

Art. 1.—Purity of breed on male and female side; sire and dam reputed for docility of disposition, early maturity, and aptitude to fatten. Sire a good stock-getter. Dam a good breeder; giving a large quantity of milk, or such as is superior for making butter or cheese, - - - - 7

Art. 2.—Head small and tapering; longer and narrower in proportion than that of the bull. Horns fine and gradually diminishing to a point; of a flat rather than of a round shape at the base; short, and inclined to turn up; those of a clear waxy color to be preferred, but such as are of a transparent white slightly tinged with yellow, admissible. Ears small, thin, and well covered with soft hair; playing quick and moving freely. Forehead of good breadth between the eyes, and slightly dished. Eyes bright, placid, and rather prominent than otherwise, with a yellow rim round them. The lower part of the face clean, dished, and well developing the course of the veins. Muzzle small. Nose of a clear orange, or light chocolate color—the former much preferred. Nostrils wide and well opened. Lower jaw thin. Teeth clear and sound, - - - - - 5

Art. 3.—Neck fine and thin, straight, and well set on to the head and shoulders, harmoniously widening, deepening, and slightly rounding in a delicate feminine manner as it approaches the latter point. No dewlap, - - - 2

Art. 4.—Shoulders fine and well placed. Fore legs short, straight, and well spread apart. Fore arm wide, muscular, slightly swelling, and full above the knee; the bone fine and flat below. Knees well knit and strong. Foot flat and in shape of an oblong semicircle. Horn of the hoof sound, and of a clear waxy color, - - - 2

Art. 5.—Chest broad, deep, and projecting—the brisket on a lower line than the belly, - 5

Art. 6.—Barrel round, deep, and well ribbed up to the hips, - - - - 4

Art. 7.—Back short, strong and straight, from the withers to the setting of the tail. Crop round and full. Loin broad. Huckle bones on a level with the back. Tail well set, on a level with the back or very slightly below it; fine and gradually diminishing to a point; and hanging without the brush, an inch or so below the hock, at right angles with the back, - - - 4

Art. 8.—Hind quarters from the huckles to the point of the rump long and well filled up. Twist well let down and full. Hind legs short, straight, and well spread apart; gradually swelling and rounding above the hock; the bone fine and flat below. Foot flat and in shape of an oblong semicircle. Horn of the hoof sound and of a clear waxy color. Legs not to cross each other in walking, nor to straddle behind, - - 3

Art. 9.—Udder broad, full, extending well forward along the belly, and well up behind. Teats of a good size for the hand; squarely placed with a slight oblique pointing out; wide apart; when pressed by the hand the milk flowing from them freely. Extra teats, indicative of good milking qualities, but should never be milked, as they draw the bag out of shape. Milk veins large and swelling. Milk excelling either in quantity or quality for making butter or cheese, - - - 5

Art. 10.—Skin of a medium thickness; moveable and mellow; a white color is admissible, but a rich cream or orange much preferable. Hair well covering the hide; soft and fine, and if undercoated with soft, thick fur in the winter so much the better. Color pure white; red roan; bright red; or reddish yellow and white. (A black or dark brown nose, or rim round the eye; black or dark brown tips of the horns; black or dark brown spots on the skin and hair decidedly objectionable, and indicative of coarse meat and bad blood.) - - 3

Art. 11.—Good handler, - - - 4

Art. 12.—Sure and good breeder, - - 4

Art. 13.—General appearance, - - 2

Perfection, - - - - 50

If the above Scale of Points meets with favor on the part of our readers, we shall follow it up with those for horses, jacks, jennies, mules, sheep, swine, and poultry. We recommend the same thing to our nurserymen in fruit, and indeed to everything exhibited. Why should not vegetables, butter, cheese, agricultural implements, flowers, as well as everything else, have their scale of points by which to be judged on exhibition? English florists have a Scale of Points in judging of flowers.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY.—No. II.

Q. What is silica?

A. Silica is the name given by chemists to the substance of flint, of rock-crystal, and of sandstones.

Q. What is chlorine?

A. Chlorine is a kind of air which has a greenish-yellow color, and a strong suffocating smell. A taper burns in it with a dull smoky flame. It exists in common salt in large quantity.

The teacher will exhibit a bottle of this gas, and may advert to the remarkable fact that this very noxious gas should form more than half the weight of the very wholesome substance common salt, 100 lbs. of common salt containing 60 lbs. of chlorine. This gas is readily prepared by pouring muriatic acid on black oxide of manganese in a retort, and applying a gentle heat. It should be collected over hot water.

Q. Do plants require food as animals do?

A. Yes, all plants require constant supplies of food in order that they may live and grow

Q. Where do plants obtain their food?

A. They obtain it partly from the air and partly from the soil.

Q. How do they take in their food?

A. They take it in by their leaves from the air, and by their roots from the soil.

Q. In what form do plants take in organic food from the air?

A. In the form chiefly of carbonic acid gas.

Q. What is carbonic acid gas?

A. It is a kind of air which has no color, but has a peculiar smell. Burning bodies are extinguished in it, and animals die, and it is heavier than common air. It causes the boiling up of soda water, and the frothing of beer, and forms nearly half the weight of all limestone rocks.

Q. If plants always draw this organic matter from the soil, will the soil not become gradually poorer and less productive?

A. It will, if badly managed and constantly cropped.

Q. Then how can you keep up this supply?

A. By plowing in green crops,—by growing clovers and other plants which leave long roots in the soil,—by restoring all the hay and straw to the land in the form of manure,—or by laying down to pasture.

The teacher may illustrate this answer beneficially, by referring to the practice in his own or the neighboring towns, and pointing out its advantages or defects.—*Professor Johnston.*

SUBSTITUTES FOR A SHORT HAY CROP.

We again advert to this subject; but as the season is so late, it will be more for the benefit of the southern than the northern farmer, as the time has passed by, this season, to sow or plant anything for fall or winter food in this latitude. Farther south, however, turnips may be sown and grow to a good size before being injured by the frost. Rye also can be sown for winter pasture. Hay is now worth from $15 to $20 per ton here; if we had any to spare to ship to the south, it would arrive there charged at so high a price that few could afford to buy. We hope the planters will take care that their townspeople are not in want, for we have little desire to see fodder going from mouths which can ill spare it, to sustain those which have the ability, as we hope they may exercise the will, to cater from their own fertile lands and in their more genial climate for themselves. We should like to know if this point is settled; does the Bermuda grass of the south make hay equal to the timothy and red-top of the north? We have heard some enthusiastically assert that it does; but we have our doubts in this matter. Certain it is, it may be greatly improved by judicious top-dressings, and paying due attention to the time and manner of curing. Will some of our southern friends speak out authoritatively on this subject?

THE STABLE.

Hay-Racks.—In stables the hay-rack is of great importance. In a good stable we would rank in the order of necessity, 1st. *Thorough ventilation and lighting.* 2d. *Cleanliness,* which can only be effected by proper floors, gutters, and facility for removal of dung. 3d. *Size of stalls;* and in this we include the length as well as width of the stall, for the stall should be at least nine feet long, with its floor ten feet. 4th. *Hay-racks.*

Racks have much to do with the comfort of a horse, and especially with a tired one. If the rack be a proper one he can easily fill himself and go to rest; if a bad one he is much longer in doing this, and his rest delayed; and if he be a strong feeder, he feeds and does not rest; if a poor feeder (that should always be urged to eat) he goes to rest hungry. The strong feeder obtains the food but not the rest to enable him to do his work the next day; the poor feeder the rest, but not the food. Both are sufferers, and, if the work be long continued, lose condition and are *used up.*

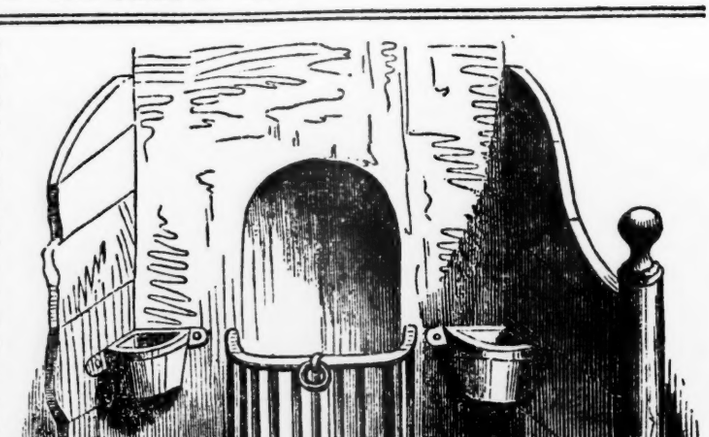
Hay-racks seem almost universally constructed with a view to render them hard to be filled; to blind the horse by falling seeds; to foul the hay with the breath of the horse; to prevent the horse getting the hay; in short to economise labor and waste labor; to economise hay and waste hay; but never to save the horse trouble and labor, and secure him food in abundance, readily got. A rack should present the reverse of all this: it should be easy for the groom to fill; easy for the horse to empty; it should not admit the hay to be fouled by the breath of the horse, nor the hay-seed to blind the horse.

Stalls are usually constructed on the sides of the stable, with the hay-loft over-head. The heads of the horses stand to the sides of the stable. The racks are in front on the sides, and open to the loft. The racks slant in front from the bottom up, are perpendicular behind, narrow at the bottom, wide at the top, and project over the horse's head. Such racks have no one excellence or convenience. Being on one side they are hard to fill; the roof being rarely more than two or three feet above the mouth of the rack-hole, access to the rack is not easy. The rack being wide above and narrow below, the hay gets wedged in, and is difficult to be eaten out, and when eaten out below does not fall from above. The projection of the rack occasions the seed and dust of the hay to fall into the eyes and ears of the horse; and also places the hay just in the most convenient place to be made foul and disgusting by the ascending breath of the horse.

Now, what are the requisites of a good rack? The opening of the rack into the hay-loft should be above, or higher than the floor of the loft. If on a level, the dust and seed which get shaken out of the hay on to the loft floor, will be pushed into the rack-hole, and fall into the rack, to fill the eyes, the ears, and the nose, to the injury of sight, hearing and breathing. The opening from the loft into the rack should be wide, to admit the hay easily; for a lazy groom will not fill the rack if it cost him much labor. The front and back of the rack should be perpendicular, and it should be at least two feet wide—far better if it be three. The bottom of the rack should be some little below the level of the horse's mouth when held naturally; and should have an inclination forward of one foot in three, and be perfectly smooth. This descent and the smoothness will bring all the hay to the front of the rack at the rungs or slats. The rungs or slats should not be more than two feet long, and the space above them should be boarded up tight all the way to the ceiling. The rungs should be round, just wide enough, and no wider, to admit the nose of the horse, and should not go quite to the bottom of the rack. There should be an opening with a door in the bottom, on the front, near the bottom of the rack to let out the seed and dust. Such a rack as here described is free from all the objections to which ordinary racks are liable.

Besides the rack we have described there are two others. The one is placed against the wall, in front or above the horse, but has no connection with the loft. The slats may be perpendicular or slanting. If the slats be perpendicular and the rack be of the proper height, it embraces all the excellences of the one we have recommended. Such a rack may be seen in our cut, in the July number. The only objection to this is that it is slanting. There is still another rack, Fig. 64 above, which is placed below the horse's head, but has no connection with the loft. In every respect it is such a rack as we recommend, except that it should be placed two or three feet higher, according to the size of the horse to feed from it.

This is a good rack, which our cut shows, if but little hay be given at a time, and that little often, as to training horses; the only objection to it is this necessity of feeding the hay little and often; where from the nature of the work, or from any other cause, this can be done, there is no rack like the low one. But if much hay is to be given at once, the horse in this rack will cull it over and leave a portion, which in the end becomes so loathsome that he will not eat it, except compelled by dire hunger.



HAY-RACK. Fig, 64.

A nearly perfect rack may be seen in the cut of Mr. Pell's stables, in the number for June, page 185. The rack is a little too high, and the slats are too long. The bottom of the rack should be on a level with the bottom of the manger. If the rack were that much longer, and the slats or rungs shorter, no breath would foul the hay, and no seed and dust annoy the horse.

In our next we shall treat of mangers, and the materials of which racks and mangers should be made.

FENCES.

Under this head the last number of the English Agricultural Society Journal contains an able article from the pen of Mr. Grigor. We are glad our own articles on this subject were written several months before this was published, otherwise we should have been accused of plagiarism. Of the evils of the present system of hedge-fencing he thus speaks in heads to paragraph divisions, adding to each elaborate reasons for the positions he takes.

1. Our fences are injurious, and that to a great extent, because they harbor and are a protection to all sorts of weeds. 2. They harbor and protect snails, slugs, &c. 3. They harbor a great many birds, and afford every encouragement to them in the building of their nests. 4. They are highly objectionable on account of their size. 5. They are injurious on account of their number. 6. The same, on account of their containing timber-trees. 7. The same, on account of their shade. 8. The same, on account of the great exhaling surface they present.

Some of the above objections, owing to the difference of climate in America, would not hold good with us; but here is one startling enough. Mr. Grigor calculates that if the fences in England could be properly reconstructed, *one million two hundred and eighty thousand* acres of good land might be gained for cultivation! We can only regret that he did not go a step further and tell us how much might be gained by abolishing the useless things altogether. We commend this article to the attention of our readers.

The Maine Farmer, in speaking of our late attack on fences, says, "the Agriculturist seems to have enlisted during the war." It certainly has; and in addition to the various missiles for attack that can be gathered together at home, we shall call into aid all the foreign shells and shot which can be imported from abroad. Will our contemporary please manufacture a little powder for us, to aid in charging home some new guns?

THE PRICE OF WOOL.

We are daily asked, is wool likely to rise, or will it fall still lower than it now is. Without any pretensions to sagacity sufficient to peer into the future, we will answer simply, that we think wool will be a trifle lower before it is higher, and then that it will rise somewhat in price, though there is little prospect of its rising as high this year as it did the last.

Our reasons for a rise in price are these: 1st. At the present low rates considerable quantities are going forward to Europe, which will ease the market a little in its present crowded state, of the very fine qualities. 2d. Business, upon the whole, is opening better for the fall trade than it was supposed it would, and we are of opinion there may be a greater demand for woollen goods than the manufacturers and merchants anticipated, a month since. 3d. The short hay crop will cause a great many more sheep to be killed this fall than ordinary, thus reducing the flocks so considerably, that the weight of the clip next year will not be increased in proportion to the ratio of inhabitants. Another thing, the flocks will not be wintered as well the coming season as they were the past, and consequently will not yield so much wool per head in the shearing of '46 as they did in that of '45.

But we must confess we are far from wishing wool to be much if any higher than it now is, because we do not think it for the general interest of the farmers that it should be. It bears a good proportionable price now to other products, and it must be recollected that the cheaper it is the more there

will be consumed of it, and the more easily will our manufacturers be enabled to compete with foreigners, and thus increase our manufacturing population, who will be customers to the farmer for flour, meal, and other products. Besides we wish to produce wool so cheap as to be able to put an end to all importations of this article, and greatly extend our exports, which we are perfectly satisfied the shrewd and enterprising Americans will make haste to do. It would be a great boon to the United States to be able to come in for a large share of the English and French wool markets. This is a prize well worth contending for; and so far from being discouraged at the present low price of wool, every farmer should endeavor to make it *higher* to himself by improving his breed and *producing* it *cheaper*. Do this and we may defy competition, and make that profitable among ourselves, which would be attended with a loss to others. The Spanish proverb is, "wherever the foot of the sheep touches, the land is turned into gold." May this prove to be the case with American farmers; and in order to hasten the realization of it, not only let them grow and use more wool, but eat more mutton and much less pork—for the former is by far the healthiest and cheapest.

NEW AGRICULTURAL WARE-HOUSE.

THE public has long felt the necessity of a more extensive agricultural warehouse in this city, where the farmer can obtain everything he may want in the way of implements and field-seeds, with the assurance of their being of a first-rate quality. Having been repeatedly solicited by numerous friends to commence an establishment of this kind, we have at length yielded to their wishes, and opened a commodious store at 187 Water street, with the most complete assortment yet offered in New York. We now respectfully solicit the attention of our friends and the public to it, and trust that so far as our establishment is found deserving we shall be favored with their custom. Agricultural mechanics have always been a favorite study with us, and many an implement have we made with our own hands. We profess to know as much of the good qualities of an axe, a plow, a harrow, a hoe, and indeed most farm implements, as we do of those of a horse, a cow, a sheep, &c.; and we hope not only to be able to select the best of each kind for our customers, but even to suggest improvements in many things already in use. We can be of considerable service to mechanics in this way, and also to the growers of improved grain, grass, and roots. Nor shall we in the mean while forget our love for fine stock; but will continue to execute all orders sent us for the purchase of superior animals. We trust that none of the readers of the Agriculturist will think, in consequence of our undertaking the management of an active business, that our periodical will be neglected. Quite the contrary—as we have arranged to have it move on with greater ability and variety than ever; and they will see, that however actively employed, we shall not forget to give them rare matter for thought and practice from month to month, and many a useful hint for the improvement of their farms, gardens, and stock.

And one word to our editorial brethren. We have been ever ready to lend them a helping hand, and say a good thing in their favor, when their pleasure or interest was concerned. Whatever little notice they can conscientiously give in their columns of our new enterprise, we shall take as particularly kind, and be happy to reciprocate the favor any time they may desire.

PRUNING STONE FRUIT IN THE FALL.

HAVE any of our readers ever made experiments between pruning peach trees and other stone fruit, in the fall, summer, and spring? In the following article, taken from the Gardener's Chronicle, the writer contends that the former season is best in England; yet we doubt whether his reasons will hold good in the drier climate and more frosty winters of this country; and we are still of opinion that the months of May and June are the best here for pruning peach as well as all other trees.

"It is a well known fact that just before or just as the leaves are falling in autumn, when sufficient sap is in motion, and in its downward course, a more speedy and perfect cicatrization will be effected than in spring. Those who have been in the habit of making cuttings of shrubs, &c., well know that if the cuttings are put in early in autumn, success is beyond a doubt, but if they are delayed until late in the season, or until spring, that failure is as certain. In the former case a callosity is formed by the descending sap, and roots are eventually sent out, and a plant is established; in the latter, no callosity is formed, and the cutting dies. It may be inferred from this, that the wounds are healed by the descending sap before the approach of winter; so much so, that no moisture can enter from without, and hence no injury can result from frost. There is another important consideration which must not be overlooked in favour of autumn pruning. In many parts of England the young wood of the peach does not ripen to the extremities, more particularly in wet seasons, and the consequence is that early frosts rend the bark in all directions, the sap escapes, and the unripened part of the shoot dies. This is of common occurrence. Were their shoots shortened in autumn instead of in spring, just while there is action enough left to heal the wounds perfectly, the declining energy of the tree would be economised; for instead of being uselessly expended in assisting to repair the extremities of the shoots which are ultimately to be cut off, it would be husbanded in the parts left, which would of course be greatly strengthened, and the buds would also assume a prominent, healthy and vigorous appearance. I am strongly of opinion that autumn is decidedly the best time for pruning every kind of stone fruit, for the reasons I have advanced."

STORING CABBAGES.

A VERY good and compact method of storing cabbage is, in the same manner that we have practised with the sugar beet. Select a dry piece of ground, cut the heads of the cabbage from their stumps, and place them in parallel rows, with the top part down, and any desired length or width. Make these rows one less in width and length every layer, so that when the heap is finished it will come to a point, and appear very much like a pile of cannon ball in an arsenal. Over this heap place a covering of straw, and then put on the dirt sufficiently thick, the same as on a potato heap, to keep out the frost, and the work is done. The earth should be spatted down hard on the four sides, making the top sharp, like the roof of a house,

so as to shed rain well. If the ground where the cabbage is stored be of a heavy clay, it should be trenched round the heap so as to carry off the water, and a bed of straw or round logs six inches or a foot thick be made for it to rest upon, and as a drain for all moisture, it being quite important that vegetables of every kind be kept dry.

NEWLY BUDDED PEACH TREES.—We wish to know at what price we can obtain five thousand young peach trees, recently budded with the best varieties of this fruit.

REMOVAL.—We have now removed our office to the new Agricultural Warehouse, No. 187 Water street, where we shall be happy to see our friends at all hours during the day.

NEW YORK FARMERS' CLUB.

AT the meeting held on the 5th of August, Thos. Jeremiah, Esq., in the chair, the subject of *Manure* was discussed.

Mr. Kerr thought that the farmers should rely more upon their own resources for making manure, instead of going abroad for it, and that nearly every farm was capable of supplying all that was necessary to keep up its fertility.

The Chairman gave his practice on Staten Island of making composts with fish, muck, and peat.

Dr. Underhill spoke highly of guano, but acknowledged, from want of knowing how to properly apply it, and the unexampled drouth, its use among the farmers this season had not been as beneficial as was anticipated. The greater amount of moisture in England was highly beneficial to it.

Mr. Fleet replied that nearly every kind of manure failed of beneficial action in a drouth, though a compost of muck suited it the best.

The Chairman said he would incorporate the muck with the guano.

Insects—Col. Clark presented the root of a young peach tree, exhibiting the destructive effect of the insect; about three inches above, and as many below the face of the earth, both bark and wood, were gnawed by that enemy.

Mr. Kerr—The course of insects may be traced—Farm-yard manure undergoes a fermentation suited to the development of many insects, a mass of it may be seen teeming with them. These with the manure are spread upon the land, and are ready for the vegetation to which their habits attach them. My friend, Judge Ball, of Hoosick, in this State, composted manure with one part of lime, three of manure, and a fifth or sixth of the whole, loamy earth. He formed many heaps of this compost. In a fortnight afterwards, the change in the masses was astonishing, taking a dung fork and opening the tops of the heaps thick smoke issued from them. In four weeks time I examined them for insects and could not find one, even the flies would not touch the heaps. Some heaps that had no such treatment were moving masses of insects. Lime produced, instead of the putrefactive process, the Dry Rot or Eremacausis; this destroys not only insects, but seeds of weeds. The smell from the common dung heaps was offensive, that from the compost not at all so. Actual experience has proved, that in two fields adjacent, one manured with compost had few, if any insects, while the crop of the other with common farm-yard manure, was destroyed by them.

Dr. Underhill—To avoid the fly and the worm in wheat, sow early or late; when your grain has attained some height, you will find the nits of the insects on it—then turn in sheep or young cattle, who will eat off all the blades, nits and all. If you sow late, you avoid the nits—you may miss them; besides, the manure left by your sheep is very good for your crop. I know but one remedy which is easily tried, and is said to be effectual. It is quick lime, slacked perfectly fine; when dried take it with your three fingers (just as you do grass seed) all over your wheat field soon after the wheat is in blossom, and when you see the flies hovering over the field—sow in this way about two pecks of lime on an acre. The dew will moisten the lime, and it then reaches the insect larvæ and kills them. This process has saved a whole wheat crop on one field, while a neighboring one was destroyed by the worm.

I was annoyed in my vineyard by the rose-bug. I first picked them off into basins with water in them—held them under the vines, and touched them and the bugs fell in. I killed many basins full in this way. At length I discovered whence all these bugs came. I observed that they issued from holes in the ground, like a pepper box. They first crawled up the trees—gradually acquired the use of their wings—had remained all winter in the ground, and the new progeny return to it in the autumn. By ploughing late in the fall, I turned them up to freezing weather, and thus got rid of them all but a few. What few now remain I have pinched off by my workmen.

At the meeting held on the 19th of August. Dr. R. T. Underhill in the chair,

A letter from *John Van Wyck*, of New Hamburg, to A. B. Allen, on the subject of Marl, accompanied with various specimens of it, was read.

Chairman—Marl is chiefly formed from decomposed shells; lime therefore becomes the principal ingredient. Potash and soda are also found in it, and are the best parts of it. The Jersey marl is very valuable, principally on account of the constituents—soda—alkalies generally. The alkali is the most important part of it. In order to determine the presence of these invaluable principles in the marls, or our soil, how indispensable a chemical analysis.

Mr. Kerr—In shells there is a large portion of the phosphate of lime. Pownal, in Vermont, has large deposits of marl with shell, in a soft condition. I analysed a specimen, and found only a very slight trace of phosphate of lime. The marl before the Club resembles the Pownal marl.

A. McDonald, Esq., of Alabama, rose, being introduced to the club, and said—I am told here that I am perfectly at home. I will therefore speak.

Chairman and Secretary—Yes, sir, you are perfectly at home, and we shall be happy to hear you.

Mr. McDonald—This is the first time I ever was present at what is called a Farmers' Club. I came here to see your Agricultural Society. Everything relating to agriculture interests me deeply. I am from Eufalla, in Alabama, in latitude 31°. There we have an abundance of blue marl. We find it everywhere in the state. I had last year 4,500 bushels drawn upon my farm. Dr. Means, of Geor-

gia, analyzed it. I composted it with straw, and let my cattle trample and let fall their droppings upon it, and it proved to be excellent manure. Our soil requires this dressing, much of it, for the surface is not generally fertile in itself. Some farmers made mistakes in managing it. I put my marl compost in the drills where I planted my cotton, and that cotton grew as large again as the other did. I am for a thorough analysis of soils, in order to decide positively what kind of manure one ought to apply. We in Alabama are asking our Legislature for a protective agriculture. The Almighty has placed the marl where it is required. I present to the Club specimens of my cotton of 1844. It is green seed cotton, short staple, raised by me by good management, so as to be worth three cents a pound more than the ordinary best crops.

This cotton was examined by the Club, and admired for its beautiful silky quality.

Mr. Meigs—Martin E. Thompson invited me to look at two grape vines he had been raising. Last spring they were about three feet high. He placed a zinc plate in the ground near one of them, and a copper plate in the ground near the other—they being about twelve feet apart. He connected the two plates by a galvanized iron wire, and attached the tendrils of one of the vines to the wire, and that vine has grown sixteen feet. The other vine was not attached to the wire, and has grown four feet.

AGRICULTURAL TOUR.

Enjoying the pleasure of a visit to your city, and a personal acquaintance with yourself, and having taken some interest in the promotion of agriculture, I will offer you a few thoughts on the subject that you are endeavoring to advance. I reside, as you know, in the southern part of Alabama, in what is termed the cotton-growing region. At the commencement of the present year, quite a number of meetings were held for the purpose of adopting some plan to reduce the quantity of cotton planted. So far as I have been enabled to get information in my journey through the states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, the crop of cotton planted this year has been equal to the last; but owing to the severe drouth that has prevailed throughout the states of Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama, the crop of cotton will be reduced greatly, and the crop of 1845 will fall off to an extent heretofore unknown, from the want of rain. The crops of wheat, corn, and hay, in the states of Illinois and Indiana, will be good. Indeed, from the best information I could get on my recent journey through those states, they would be abundant, though they suffered from the immense floods of rain which fell during the month of June; for while the southern states were literally burnt up, the western states were half drowned.

In my trip through the west, I had the pleasure of examining several extensive nurseries. The nursery of Mr. Curtis, of Edgar county, Illinois, is a very fine one. This gentleman has purchased several farms from the sale of his fruit trees. He has ten acres in his nursery, and employs ten hands. The nursery of Mr. Mc'Kintosh, of Cleveland, I found to contain thirteen acres. It appeared in a highly flourishing state. The nursery of Mr. Bryant, of Buffalo, is larger than either of the others, with a greater variety of fruit, shrubs, &c. These enterprising gentlemen, at the same time that they are promoting their own interests, will add much to human comfort and luxury. I had the pleasure of attending the Farmers' Club of your city on the 19th inst., at the American Institute. The subjects discussed were of a highly important character. The value and properties of marl and mud, applied as manure, received that attention that their importance deserved, and much light was thrown out that could not be other than useful to the farmer and gardener. The subject of insects, the causes of their increase, and the best mode of destroying them, was next treated of: this also is a most useful and interesting matter to the cultivator of the soil. After spending two hours with the Farmers' Club, I came to the conclusion, that if those Clubs could become universal throughout our entire country, the greatest good would result to the cause of agriculture.

Alexander McDonald.

New York, Aug. 21, 1845.

The respected writer of the above has been making an agricultural tour from the south, through the west, and then east. We have been highly gratified with his personal acquaintance, and hope other planters will annually follow his example. They will find a hearty welcome here, and for one we shall endeavor to place them in the way of seeing such things as best exemplify our agriculture. We trust that Col. McDonald, as well as other southern gentlemen, will attend the State Agricultural Society show at Utica, for there they will see congregated together as fair a sample as this state can give of its farmers and their productions.

VARIETIES OF THE STRAWBERRY.

I have perused the very intelligent article on the Strawberry Culture, from N. Longworth, Esq., of Cincinnati, in your August number, which fully accords in its principles with the views of my father, the late Wm. Prince, as well as with my own experience. And most singular is it, on the other hand, that Mr. Downing should, at this late day, have blundered into the same errors as some previous compilers. There is one other point requiring investigation, which is that the strawberry referred to by Mr. L. as the "Hudson," is a misnomer. I had made a note to this effect a year since, on perusing a former communication from his pen, with the intent of noticing the error. I will now describe the genuine variety.

Hudson's Bay.—*Thom. Pom. Man. Down. Prince's Catalogue for more than 50 years.* 1

Hudson's Bay Scarlet.—*Hort. Trans., London.*

Hudson's Pine, *of Scotland.*

Mulberry, *Ken.*

Fraisier de la Baie de Hudson, *of the French publications.*

This variety, the native Scarlet of our forests, and the English red wood, are the most ancient strawberries of extensive culture in this vicinity, and probably throughout our country generally. It was sent from our nurseries to the London Horticultural Society shortly after the formation of that noble institution. In the Pomological Manual, published by my father and self in 1831, it is thus described:

"This variety is more extensively cultivated for supplying the markets of New York than any other.

The fruit is quite large, with a neck, irregularly shaped, approaching to ovate, and of a dark rich shining red hue; the seeds are unequal in size, and deeply embedded, with ridged intervals; the flesh is a pale scarlet, firm, hollow, with a core, of good quality, with some acidity. The berries should not be gathered until they assume a dark color, and are fully ripe, as otherwise the acidity of the fruit predominates, and injures their flavor."

To this very ample description, published fourteen years ago, I have nothing to add except in respect to one peculiarity of the fruit, which is that the point or extremity remains green long after the body of the berry begins to redden, and does not become red until the perfect maturity of the fruit. By far the greater proportion of the fruit of this variety is plucked when reddening and yet immature, which has caused it to be less esteemed; but if it is allowed to remain until fully matured, for which the reddening of the extremity forms a conclusive guide, its sweetness and flavor is so much increased, that it may then be classed in excellence with our best varieties. It however requires a powerful sun to mature it fully, and the want of this heat has caused it to be condemned by the London Horticultural Society; but careful investigation made the present season, has convinced me, as well as other amateurs of the strawberry to whom I submitted the fruit, that it ought to be reinstated in favor. I will further remark, that the berries of this variety detach *very readily* from the hull.

I notice a reference by Mr. L. to the genuine staminate Keen's seedling, and to a pistillate variety which he prefers for its abundant crops when fertilized. This latter is none other than the Methven scarlet *misnamed*, and which has been long sold at Philadelphia for the Keen's seedling, as Mr. Downing avers. In regard to Hovey's seedling, which being strongly pistillate, and as Mr. L. states, utterly unproductive in all ordinary cases without fertilization, I will mention an extraordinary circumstance. A very large detached bed bore this season a fair crop of fruit, resulting probably from a forced development of the stamens consequent upon the drought and extreme heat that existed at the period of flowering, or possibly, but not probably, from pollen being conveyed to them by bees. In another garden a bed of Hovey's seedling growing by itself, which was barren last year, has this year been loaded with fruit, in consequence of the owner planting a bed of staminate plants near to it the last autumn.

I will now make a few remarks, as to other varieties. The following appear to have perfect bisexual flowers, and are of course uniformly productive. English white and red wood, all the monthly Alpines, both running and bush, prolific hautbois, large flat hautbois, large early scarlet, and Duke of Kent's Scarlet, and another scarlet of twice the size of the last, without a name, which I call prolific scarlet; and also the green strawberry. The wild strawberry of this island, *Fragaria Virginica*, is found differing in sexual developments, and consequently in fruitfulness, which accords with Mr. Longworth's investigations as to the native varieties of the west.

On the subject of the fertilization of abortive varieties, one most important point demands our attention, which appears to be very generally unknown. It is that there are distinct families of strawberries *which never amalgamate*.

The European wood and Alpine varieties form one family; the hautbois varieties another; the scarlet, black, and pine form a third; and the green, I am inclined to think, forms a fourth, to which this restriction will apply. It is therefore indispensable that the selection of staminate or pistillate varieties be made within these limits. You will thus perceive the fallacy of the suggestion made by our friend Mr. Hovey, of Boston (Mag. of Hort., No. CXIX, page 402), that "The Alpine strawberry offers the chance of great improvement, and perhaps by impregnation with the large sorts great size might be obtained, and its successive bearing retained."

The culture of the strawberry being somewhat of a hobby with me, I have concentrated from all quarters every possible variety, and I have now above sixty estimable varieties, after rejecting all that did not possess valuable properties. In addition thereto, I have above thirty beds of seedlings, each grown from a choice and distinct variety, one of which is from the Montevideo Pine, the largest and most splendid of all strawberries. I have the present season selected from many thousands, eight very large and superior seedlings, distinct in origin and in their properties, which I am now propagating rapidly, and will in due time announce to the public. Those who have a taste for the strawberry culture may derive much amusement from an inspection of my collection, and they are perfectly welcome to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Montevideo Pine.—This most extraordinary variety took the premium at the June semi-annual Exhibition of the Flushing Horticultural Society. The entire plant is so strongly marked as to be readily distinguishable from all others. The leaves are large, heavy and rugose, the petioles strong and downy; the flowers as large and often larger than a dollar; the fruit pale red, obtusely conical, very regular and perfect in form, with occasionally one of cockscomb shape, and remarkably beautiful; and those that mature during the first two weeks are almost invariably three to four inches in circumference. The fruit begins ripening about the 15th June, and continues in regular bearing until the middle of July. Mr. Browne (author of the American Sylva), who saw it in print, stated it to be the identical strawberry he had seen in the gardens of Montevideo. It was introduced to our country by Messrs. Prince, of Flushing, to whom the premium was awarded for its exhibition. The crimson cone, and the *genuine* Prince Albert (two varieties being so called) are next to the above in point of beauty and size.

Wm. R. Prince.

Prince's Linnæan Garden and Nurseries, Flushing, Aug. 16, 1845.

GEDDES'S HARROW.

We noticed Mr. Geddes' remarks in relation to our improvements of his harrow, page 218 of the July number of the Agriculturist. From considerable experience we can assure him, that we think his harrow not only "improved for a prairie," but also for the *stony hills* of New England, or, indeed, any other kind of soil. Our reasons for this opinion are the following: 1st. Teeth simply placed in the timbers of the harrow without fastening are continually getting loose, and the more ragged and stony the ground the greater the liability to do so. 2d. When loose they

present an unequal surface, and not only do the work imperfectly and unevenly, but make the harrow harder to draw, and therefore more tiresome for the team, especially when the forward teeth slip up, as they are most likely to do, and the hind ones keep fast. 3d. The nut in our improvement does not "draw the teeth up" as supposed by Mr. Geddes, but holds it fast in its proper place. Of course when it is worn off by use it must be repointed or sharpened; and so must those on the old plan, as proposed by Mr. G.; and there is this further disadvantage of adhering to the old plan, every time a tooth is knocked out to be pointed or sharpened, the doing so increases the size of the mortice in the timber, and makes the teeth more and more liable to get loose, and wedging them is both troublesome and difficult. 4th. The teeth are liable to drop out when the harrow is turned over double to be carried in or out, or from field to field, and besides their top projections sometimes prevent its being doubled. In this position, too, the teeth are liable to drop out, subjecting one to considerable loss of time frequently in looking for them.

We are much obliged to Mr. Geddes for his good opinion of our agricultural implements, and shall continue to strive to deserve them in all such as we make; and if we can spare the time to attend the forthcoming show of the New York State Agricultural Society, at Utica, we shall do so with great pleasure, and not only bring our improved harrow, but other of our implements with us.

RUGGLES, NOURSE & MASON.

Worcester, Mass. Aug, 6, 1845.

We will simply add one word to the above. In the year 1838 we first saw Wilbur's harrow, similar to that of Mr. Geddes, and thereupon took the hint to make a pair for our farm, very much like the present improvement of Ruggles, Nourse & Mason, especially in mortising in and fastening the teeth. Those harrows are still in use, and are the best decidedly we ever handled.

WIRE FENCES.

Permit me to refer you as a pertinent answer to the inquiry of your correspondent in your last number, upon the subject of wire-fencing, to certain questions and answers, contained in the Third Report of the Select Committee of the British Parliament, appointed to inquire into the state of agriculture, 1836. As you may not have the document at hand, I will transcribe the passage.

The person under examination is L. Oliphant, Esq., a member of Parliament from Scotland, who cultivates a farm of his own in Perthshire, containing 800 acres.

"11,124. I am cultivating land now 800 and odd feet above the level of the sea, which two years ago was entirely covered with heath. I have enclosed it with wire-fencing, at an expense of about 6d a yard, stones in that part of the country being of a nature that do not stand the weather; well-adapted for furrow-drains, but not at all for building walls, and I have fallen upon a plan of wire-fencing, with oak posts, with five wires complete, which costs me 6d per yard.

"11,125. Do you prefer that to planting hedges? I have attempted hedges; it is a hard matter to contend against a high climate and sheep.

"11,126. Are those wire fences capable of resisting cattle? They will resist anything. The fox-hunters will complain loudly of the impossibility of getting over the country.

"11,127. What is the size of the top wire? It is No. 8, and the remainder are No. 6."

From these data, the cost of such a fence in this country may easily be computed. We of course would use locust or cedar posts, which would be preferable to even British oak, in point of durability; and the difference between their cost here, and that of the oak posts there, would go far to make up for any excess in the cost of the wire here over its cost there. There are many parts of the Atlantic states, at least, where even the first cost of such a wire fence would be less than that of one of boards, or of posts and rails.

TYRO.

WESTERN CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER.

Early in this month the residue of the hemp crop should be put in rick. The cutting and housing of tobacco should progress as fast as it ripens. The weeds, in woodland pastures, so far as it has not been already done, should be cut as early in this month as practicable. By all means do not wait for the "dark of the moon," but cut all biennials and perenials as fast as you can. In a few years you will have your woodland, if properly thinned out, covered with luxuriant blue grass, instead of briars and noxious weeds.

This is the month for sowing wheat, and the utmost diligence should be used to prepare the ground well, and in proper season. Early sowing almost invariably turns out best. Do not fail to finish sowing in September, and if possible before the 20th, or 25th of the month. There is usually leisure for a part of the hands on a farm during this month, and they should be diligently employed in cutting weeds, *briars*, &c. The latter, when cured, should be heaped and burnt, and thus afford an opportunity to sheep to nip the young briars when they first spring up. One cutting and burning, well prepared, with the aid of a good flock of sheep, will exterminate them. But if you expect your sheep to work for you, you must treat them well. You must neither expose them to have their fleeces filled with burrs, nor torn by briars. The first you must exterminate, the latter you must cut and burn. Do this, and they will not only crop down the young briars as fast as they spring up, without fee or reward, but will also furnish you annually with their rich and abundant fleeces. When they thus labor for you, and furnish you with heavy fleeces, to keep you warm, you will not, in return, grudge them their salt. These cheap laborers would be invaluable to the settlers on the prairies of Indiana and Illinois. There grass so much abounds as to be an obstruction to the cultivation of the soil. These industrious little animals would convert a portion of it into fine fleece wool, to warm and clothe the new settlers, and feed themselves and their little ones to boot.

In the more northern latitudes, sweet potatoes should be dug the last of this month; further south this operation may be delayed till October. As sweet potatoes are injured by frosts sufficiently severe to nip the vines, they should be dug and housed in time to avoid this danger.

Prospect Hill, Ky. A. BEATTY.

Agriculture in Scotland.—No. 11.

I PROPOSE to occupy this and perhaps another letter, by a sketch of a journey between this place and Durham, which I made about the middle of June. There are four or five distinct routes taken by the coaches from Edinburgh to Newcastle; the one which I took was by way of Lauder, Kelso, Coldstream, Wooler, and Morpeth, passing through the counties of Edinburgh, Berwick, Roxburgh, Northumberland, and Durham.

From Edinburgh to the Fala water, nearly twenty miles, the cultivation is generally very good, and about Dalkeith the pasture fields looked remarkably well. But even thus near to the Lothians, there are here and there farms, which are almost unimproved, whose fields show the baneful effects of indolence or prejudice. The noble parks about Dalkeith Palace and Newbattle Abbey contribute greatly to the beauty of this section. From Blackshiels the road rises rapidly to the top of Soutra Hill, one of the highest of the Lammermoors. It is, I believe, about 1,200 feet above the level of the sea. At the top is a wide, bleak, boggy tract, tenanted almost entirely by sheep, nearly all black-faced. A solitary shepherd's hut and ale-house rises alone in the middle, and tall wooden posts by the road-side show that marks are necessary during the winter storms. In this high bleak region we can scarcely hope to grow grain crops in regular rotation, even by the most approved methods now known; but I think that by draining, liming, and judicious plantations to form shelters on the more exposed points, the pasture might be increased in value many fold.

From this place to Lauder, and indeed I may say almost to Kelso, the farming generally is not good. The soil is formed from the slates of the great clay slate formation, which stretches across Scotland, from St. Abb's Head to the Mull of Galloway. The different strata of slate differ in composition greatly; but they all form improveable soils. Many, or indeed I may say all, of these soils are rather stiff, naturally cold, and retentive of water. Draining is progressing among the farmers there, but not so fast as it ought; the fields are too often thrown up in ridges, with a fine crop ornamenting in a narrow stripe the top, and contrasting with a yellow dwarfish growth in the hollow. One field struck me particularly. Half of it only, the coachman told me, had been drained. The crop was turnips, sown on ridges across the field, which had a gentle slope. It had been raining violently during the night, and the water stood in pools between the ridges as far as the undrained land went; beyond that it was dry. I never saw so perfectly exemplified, the effect of thorough draining.

Farm of Mr. Dudgeon.—On drawing near to Kelso the aspect of things changes for the better. There are many very excellent farmers in that neighborhood. We stopped half a day to visit Mr. Dudgeon, of Skylaw. This gentleman is extensively known as a most enterprising farmer. During a former lease many improvements were made, advances, in fact, fully equal to any of the time in that region. Now having a new lease and more light, he is proceeding with great vigor and confidence. The soil is chiefly strong and stiff, some of the clay making excellent tiles. The great evil on such soils is an excess of water; according to the earlier systems of draining it was attempted to remove this by cross drains to *cut off the springs*, but these have been found not to accomplish the object. The whole plan of draining, therefore, is changed, and every field is, or soon will be, drained straight down the slope, the drains being 12 yards apart, and never less than 36 inches in depth. The effect of the drain, followed after a proper time by the subsoil plow, is such, that he is now growing crops of turnips on stiff tile clays. In some of the English counties over which I have lately travelled, Norfolk, for instance, even where the soil is deep, they merely skim the surface, 4 to 5 inches being the usual depth, and they call 10 inches subsoiling. Mr. Dudgeon does not allow his men to go less than nine inches at the first plowing, and follows that by subsoiling from six to nine inches farther.

The farm contains about 900 acres, and is laid out in large fields, of from 20 to 40 acres. We found nearly all of the crops looking well, the turnips especially so. Of these there are this year 180 acres. In one turnip field, I counted 29 hoes in full operation. Most of this company were women, they being generally quicker and more expert than the men. Very few potatoes are grown, merely enough for the family, and a certain portion to each laborer. The wheat looked very healthy, but is rather thin in some fields, owing either to frosts in spring or the wireworm.

We found on one corner of the farm a tile work in full operation. It turns out from 4 to 500,000 tiles in a year, but is not by any means able to supply the demand of the immediate neighborhood.

At the same time that Mr. Dudgeon is improving most rapidly the long cultivated fields, he is bringing in others from a state of nature. We saw one of about 30 acres, in which the drains are nearly complete. The upper part was a wild moor, overgrown with patches of furze, and the lower part a perfect morass. The soil looked stiff and unpromising; but when once dry and well broken up, it will repay the trouble and expense of subduing it.

Mr. Dudgeon has had three young Germans with him this summer, studying practical agriculture; one of them is to remain two years. To show the estimation in which Scotch farming is held, I may mention that at the present time no less than thirty young men attend Kelso market weekly, who are students with the farmers of the neighborhood. They are for the most part from England, some from Ireland, and a number from the continent. There should be some from the United States. A year of such tuition would be quite invaluable to any of our young farmers, and my own experience of Scottish hospitality and kindness would warrant me in promising to any who might incline to try it, a pleasant as well as profitable year. JOHN P. NORTON.

Edinburgh, July 11, 1845.

LARGE WATERMELONS.—Mr. Ferriday, of Natchez, Miss., writes under date of 30th July, that he had two watermelons sent him from Tensau Parish, Louisiana, one of which weighed 39 lbs., and the other 42 lbs. We should be glad to be the recipient of such favors during the succeeding reign of dog days. We have seen nothing like their weight in our market this season.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

I NOTICED in the July Agriculturist, some remarks on the last volume of Transactions of the State Agricultural Society, the sentiments of which correspond with my own; and as I feel an interest in the progress of the Society, and the welfare of our farming interest generally, I beg leave, through your columns, to add a few observations on this subject.

I have looked through the large volume of the last Transactions, and with considerable disappointment saw no publication of several reports of committees at the last Poughkeepsie Cattle Show, which I heard read at the time. I allude now particularly to the reports on horses and cattle.

It was admitted by those generally who heard the reading of those reports at the time, that they were drawn up with great ability by their several committees, who were, if I mistake not, composed of accomplished judges in their several departments, some of whom had come hundreds of miles, and one from a foreign country, to officiate on the occasion. These reports, as I understood at the time, were expected, both by the committees who made them, by the exhibitors of stock which were the subject of their remarks, and by the public who heard them read, to be published at length in the annual volume issued by the Society; and it appears to me, that if the Transactions of the Society are to be published at all, they should contain what they purport to, *i. e.*, the *bonâ fide* Transactions of the Society. But I confess to you, as they now stand, they look pretty much like the playing of Hamlet, with the part of Hamlet left out. To be sure, there is a list of premiums published, but without the accompanying remarks of the committees on the animals, the reasons why, &c., &c., they appear vague and unmeaning. If the public are to gain any benefit from the exhibitions of the Society, and its publications, it is in *their practical* effects. Now, if its reports, and the remarks of its committees, made up with a good deal of labor, and a considerable sacrifice of their own time and expense in attending the shows, and the laborious work of examining all the various animals, productions, and implements confided to their charge for the best part of two days, as is usually the case, are to be thrown by as so much waste paper, as has been done in these above mentioned, who, of any ability in matters of this kind, will hereafter officiate as judging committees for the Society? And if the exhibitors of animals of merit are to be turned off thus slightingly, with a mere announcement of what has received the premiums, without "rhyme or reason," or for why or for what, other animals, in their estimation, no better than their own, have received premiums in preference, how long will the large list of the disappointed competitors continue to send their animals for exhibition? There is also something due to the successful exhibitors, if the viewing committees think proper to make remarks upon their animals, that such remarks be published. In fact, I know no good reason for these omissions on the part of the managers of the State Society, unless it be from the inattention of those having charge of the papers which are to make up the volume.

In relation to this, it appears that the labor of making up the last volume was consigned to a Committee of Publication, or something of the sort. This consisted of Dr. Beekman, a State senator, Dr. Lee, a member of assembly, both of whom had busy and responsible duties to perform in their several capacities as legislators, and Mr. Tucker, editor of the Cultivator. Now none of these gentlemen had the necessary time to attend to it, and Mr. John J. Thomas, an assistant editor of the Cultivator (or at least a writer of some of its editorials), and a nurseryman of Wayne county, was sent for to supervise, select, and arrange the matter handed in for publication. The labor therefore was thrown from the proper committee on to this one individual. With the manner in which this duty *generally* has been performed, I have no disposition to find fault; but I do object that legitimate and important matter, appertaining strictly to the society and its members, was thrown out, and much irrelevant material put in its place, such as essays on the agriculture of distant states and countries, which can have little practical effect on our own farmers; and speeches, and general theoretic remarks, little useful to them, substituted. I observe, too, that the papers of Mr. Thomas himself, making 50 pages—nearly one-tenth of the Transactions—have abundant room in this, as in the past volumes; well indeed in themselves, but not more exclusively useful than the actual reports of committees of the Society itself. I say this without disparagement or disrespect to either of the gentlemen above named; but really it would seem that if the Society has the funds which you say it has, and which is corroborated by the report of the treasurer, a competent committee should be found who will devote the necessary time, and be paid their expenses at least, while in the performance of their duty, without delegating it to others.

Another thing seems to me should be done in point of fairness to our agricultural papers—the chief offices of the Society, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, should not be conferred upon the editors of papers. I do not question their competency or disposition to do all that they can for the welfare of the Society, but is it not giving undue advantage to the papers thus under their control in appropriating the patronage of the Society to their own particular use? I do not say that this is the case, but many people think so. The State Society officers should be placed above even the suspicion of such a thing as accepting an office for the sake of assisting a collateral interest. Why not appoint a secretary with good pay for his services, and not let all the operations of the Society be wielded by a single press or two for their own emolument? Another thing, why are the Transactions made an ADVERTISING sheet for the benefit of certain stock-breeders who choose to badger the Society for the admission of their covert advertisements in the shape of laudation of their cattle, sheep, or pigs? There is not only a *meanness* in the parties who solicit it, but a *gross perversion* of the uses of the Transactions themselves in their admission. It should never be permitted again. If the Transactions are to be respected as the legitimate records of the Society, let all extraneous matter be excluded until whatever is useful as appertaining to the Society itself be arranged for publication; and then, if there be room, such *competent* papers should be admitted as will confer a benefit on the public. It is to be hoped that the future volumes of the Transactions

may be able to boast a responsible paternity, and no longer wander about the community a *filius nullius*.

New York, July, 1845. A MEMBER.

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We give place to the foregoing remarks from a respected correspondent, without comment, other than we wish to have the usefulness and reputation of the State Agricultural Society continued and perpetuated. But we are persuaded that such continuance will depend wholly on the fairness and intelligence with which its proceedings are conducted. We have strictly abstained from any direct connection with this Society, or indeed with any other, for we disdain any personal advantages whatever to be derived from them. Our press has ever been an independent one, and it is our intention to keep it so. If any one chooses to reply to the above, our columns are open. Hereafter, we shall have some remarks of our own to offer.

THE GARGET IN COWS.

A popular opinion respecting this disease, is, that it is occasioned by the presence of a full flow of milk in the udder, and I wish to state some facts which may assist in deciding correctly, the validity of this opinion.

I have for several years been in the habit of handling the udders of young heifers before calving, with decided benefit. In pursuance of this practice, winter before last, having a young heifer to calve in the March following, I commenced this course as usual, and had rendered her quite gentle, when all at once, on handling her udder, she gave me notice that I hurt it. I suspected the cause, and found on further examination a hard bunch in the interior of the udder, which was evidently the cause of her skittishness. The udder at this time indicated but little milk in it. Having read of sulphur as being useful to give cows while dry with calf, I gave her a few doses and the complaint subsided, and no appearance of garget at the time of her calving, or in the summer that followed. She had a calf this spring about the 20th of April, and no appearance of the disease until about a week since, when she gave milk badly bloody from one teat, the same teat where the bunch was felt above it last year; and on examination a similar bunch was found above this teat. I commenced giving her sulphur, and the complaint appears to be subsiding.

Another fact respecting this disease, took place some two or three years since in an old cow. She had been slightly affected with the garget several times; but remember it was slight. In drying her off the last calf she had (having killed her since), and when she was almost dry she had the disease much worse than ever. I dosed her with sulphur, while she was dry, and no garget appeared when she calved, or since while she lived.

Another idea I would mention is this, that in all cases of garget that I have seen, it has only partially affected the udder. It has been concentrated in some parts of the udder, either wholly or much worse than others. Now I should think, if the pressure of the milk was the prime cause of the disease, it would be uniform in every part of the udder.

Again, I have milked my cows for several years, wholly myself, and having had one fine cow spoiled by the disease, several years since, I have watched with intense anxiety all symptoms of this disease; and I have almost uniformly been able to detect some symptoms of the disease before the appearance of bloody or clotted milk. These symptoms are invariably hard bunches either in the interior, or outside of the udder or both. Sometimes the notice I had was unusual heat in some part of the udder or teats, and at others no heat was felt at all on the outside. It seems then from all the experience I have had, it is a disease somewhat resembling the scrofula in the human system. It may indeed be aggravated by an unusual flow of milk. That is reasonable. But the question at issue is, whether this is generally the most efficient course.

I find, page 188 of the Agriculturist for June, in the proceedings of the American Agricultural Association, this brief statement in reference to disease in cattle: "Many cattle are *scrofulous*." I cannot see that any reference is here made to the disease called garget in cows. I hope, however, that communication may yet appear in the Agriculturist, and that this communication may excite some of your intelligent correspondents to examine this subject, with a scrutiny that shall settle this question beyond dispute. It is of no use to tell about mere opinions, where demonstration is possible.

Peru, June 11, 1845. J. H. JENNE.

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The above was handed to me, inasmuch as it quotes a remark made by me at the May meeting of the American Agricultural Association which was reported in this paper, June No. My experience has never traced any connection between garget and scrofula. It may exist. Garget may be easily removed if promptly treated. I am inclined to trace more and more diseases to scrofula, as my experience enlarges, deeming them only varying forms of scrofula. No book on cattle I ever read (and I have read every one old and new in English and French I ever heard of) mentions scrofula. The opinions I have formed have sprung from continued observation of the analogy between certain forms of disease in cattle and the exhibitions of scrofula in man. The character is the same in each. Garget may be scrofulous; but if so all the remedies used for it do not cure it, but only change its location or its form; and in that case it would recur. Scrofula cannot be *cured* by sulphur; if garget *can be*, it is not scrofulous. Scrofula is perhaps never cured, but only suppressed, and remains latent. Many diseases are called garget which are not; the results, swelling, loss of milk, bad milk, &c., are the same—hence the mistake. Some are scrofulous—others not; garget proper is not scrofulous.

I intend, when I have fully matured my opinions as to *all* the forms of scrofula in cattle, to publish an essay on the subject. At present I am positive that all chronic diseases of the liver, the lungs, and of the throat, all tumors on the neck and body, all wens, nodes, enlargement of the bones, caries of the bones, swelling of the joints (not simply *on* the joints), and ulcers of a serious character and spontaneous in appearance, all hypertrophies, and all permanent indurations of the bag, are scrofulous. All sterilities of the cow (and most of the bull) which cannot be accounted for, spring from scrofula. I could satisfactorily demonstrate this to any well read physician who is familiar with scrofula.

A. STEVENS.

WM. HENRY SOTHAM AND THE HEREFORDS.

UNDER this head I propose to say what I feel is due both to the man and the cattle which he has imported and bred. I start with the proposition, that Mr. Sotham is, in the highest sense of the word, a public benefactor; and that his herd, as a herd in the aggregate, is the *best* in America; and in addition he has individuals which have no superiors in any other country. Not only this, but he has *more highly* superior animals than any other breeder whom I know. Measured by the standard which should be applied to any good cattle, they stand high in the scale of excellence. With this positive good character, let it be added that his herd are a new kind in our country; that in them the country has an accession to the material for its agricultural action, and it may be confidently asserted, that Mr. Sotham is indeed a benefactor. The celebrated breeder, Mr. Bates of Kirkleavington, England, has said, that for *one* man with the capacity to breed *good* cattle, there may be found *forty* who would make first rate prime ministers. Had he said *one hundred* instead of *forty*, he would have been nearer the truth; for there are *thousands*, in our country, who would fill respectably, nay, ably, the great offices of state, and it may be asked, are there hundreds who have the capacity to breed good animals? Decimate the hundreds and yet you are above the mark. But of the *few* Mr. Sotham is *one*, and as his herd shows him, a distinguished one. You may prefer some other race of cattle to his; but take the Hereford standard of excellence, and he is a conspicuous and *able* breeder. What herd in this country, of any race or kind, can show so much uniformity? Of his pure Herefords (at least one hundred) not an *indifferent* and not more than three or four *moderate* animals has he. They were selected from various sources, yet his critical eye chose excellence always; and when his herd was gathered, his critical judgment exercised itself ever to breed excellence.

Such has been Mr. Sotham's aim, and he has achieved it. In his cattle he has reared to himself a monument more durable than marble—the cattle will reproduce themselves, the marble would crumble to dust.

I propose to devote three or four numbers to Mr. Sotham's farm, his improvements, and method of cultivation; and to his cattle and sheep. In this one I shall speak of Mr. S. personally. It is due to him. He has won a position against prejudice and opposing interest; and this interest has not been passive; but indeed most active. His laurels are his own, won by himself; alone he fought for them, and now the battle over, he begins to enjoy the merited honor of his high sagacity successfully applied. In his cattle he gave to the country of his adoption a new element in agriculture. By their diffusion he will confer such good as will make him a widely known and remembered benefactor of the country. His enterprise was a new one, it has been successful, and from it hereafter the country will reap riches untold, and he reputation richly merited.

I am Mr. Sotham's friend. I advocate his cattle, and yet from no other interest than admiration of the man as a judge and breeder of cattle, and admiration of his stock. By them I was won to know and admire his skill and judgment. I am a Short-Horn man, and have not the least interest in the Herefords, and of course I speak only the conclusions of my judgment. Before I knew Mr. Sotham, I formed my opinion of his cattle, and I sought his acquaintance from the desire to know the man who had the eye to see, and the judgment and energy to realize so great a good as their introduction. Called upon as a committee man, at the late show of the State Agricultural Society, to pass judgment on the Short-Horns and Herefords exhibited, I could not but remark, that the only man who showed animals all of uniform excellence and character was Mr. S. In those classes he exhibited more in number than any other person, and not one animal but was superior. Of what other exhibitor can this be said? Favorably impressed by what I saw at the show, I went to his farm to view his herd, and there saw that the draft shown by him was no more than a type of the whole.

And who is Wm. Henry Sotham? He is an Englishman, born in Oxfordshire, and was reared a farmer. Some years since, he came to this country, and located himself at Perch Lake, in Jefferson county, New York. About eight years since, he commenced the introduction of Herefords from the best herds in England. On his first importation, he removed to Albany, where being joined by the Hon. Erastus Corning in his enterprise, he placed himself on the beautiful farm now known as Hereford Hall. Under his skill its impoverished fields have become fertile; and now his noble herd of cattle, numbering at least one hundred, four fifths bred by himself, spread themselves over its hills and fill its dales.

In my next I will notice his cattle and sheep—a noble flock—and the succeeding one his farm management.

A. STEVENS.

DISEASES OF SWINE.

I WISH to ask you a few questions relative to a sow and pigs of mine. On the 19th of March last, she had a litter of ten pigs, and on the 21st all were dead. The 19th was a snowy raw day. She littered in the stable yard, and had apparently just given birth to the last pig when I discovered her. I immediately placed the sow and pigs in a stable, fed her on boiled potatoes, and some corn meal therewith. All appeared well on the 20th, and on the 21st, I found all dead but four. I judged from their appearance that they died in fits. The tongue lacerated and clasped by the teeth, and frothy at the mouth. Of the four remaining on that morning at six o'clock, two soon after died, acting like a drunken man, staggering and frothing. At noon the same day they died, and the two survivors were attacked in like manner. These we took into the house and nursed them, and experimented on them with salt and brandy, which seemed to benefit them but not restore them. They all died by night, 21st March. I have been thus particular, and wish to know what was the matter with them. The mother is living and doing well, and as our cattle and hogs range here through the woods, she may again be with pig. I saw nothing in Clater and Youatt bearing any resemblance to the foregoing, and none of my neighbors could account for it, save a maidenly lady, who said, that I should not have removed them from the spot where they were born, until they had nursed from the sow. I handled them very gently, and *with mittens*, and drove the sow to them immediately that I put them down. If

you can give me any information respecting the sickness, &c., of the pigs, I shall feel much obliged.

ALEXANDER LEEDS.

St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Mich., July 15, 1845.

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The pigs simply got chilled, could not suck their dam, and of course died. The lady's advice above was good, and they should not have been moved till they had been nursed, for they would then have got strength and warmth. Feeding salt and brandy was very bad; they should have been kept warm and fed with warm milk, as they were perishing from hunger and cold. A young pig is one of the most delicate of animals, and should always be farrowed in mild weather, and in a comfortable place. It is dangerous to remove them from the sow when first dropped; all one can do is simply to watch and prevent her overlaying them, and put them to the teats if they stray away; all the rest must be left to their own instincts.

ICE-HOUSES.

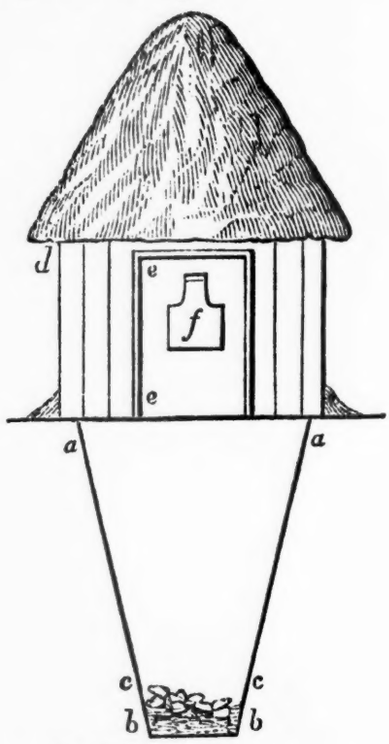
THE long summers which generally pervade the United States, and their enervating oppressive heat, render the use of ice a necessary, alike conducive to the health and comfort of the people. It is to be regretted that so few of the farmers think of this, and not one in a hundred perhaps has his ice-house. Ice during the summer is generally considered among them as scarcely attainable, and a luxury only to be enjoyed by the rich. But if they knew how cheaply and easily an ice-house could be constructed, and then how to fill it properly, scarce a farmer in the country who would not have it in abundance, in addition to his cold spring or well.

The best situation usually contended for in an ice-house, is the north side of a hill, with the earth on all sides save the front, and the whole under shade-trees. Now as for the shade-trees there never was a greater mistake, for they attract moisture, and moisture melts ice ten times as fast as a hot wind or the sun. We also object to the sides and back of the ice-house being of earth, as that is moist too; and instead of preserving the ice as our readers may generally think, it has a tendency to make it melt the more rapidly. An ice-house then may be placed in any airy, open situation, and preserve the ice a long time, provided it has a good drainage and be properly filled. These two are the essential requisites. As a proof of this, see the buildings on the Rockland lake for its preservation. These are of wood, standing entirely above ground, and in fact are built just like a common plain barn. During winter the ice is sawed out of the lake of any thickness, in blocks of about two feet long, and two feet wide. These are then taken to the ice-house, and laid up compactly in it just like a heap of brick. This forms a solid mass, impenetrable to the sun and air, and it will thus keep an indefinite length of time. Perhaps our readers generally are not aware how long it takes to melt solid blocks of ice. We have often seen them on the banks of rivers in the Northern States in June, and are informed that some of the huge blocks which were thrown up last winter on to the banks of the Niagara, near Lewiston, although constantly exposed to the sun, air, and rain, were still of considerable size at midsummer, the present season.

The best and safest way to construct an ice-house in this climate is, to make a wooden frame with posts about a foot thick, then plank up inside and out, and fill between the planking with saw-dust or tan-bark. An under roof should also be made, and the space between the two filled the same as the sides, or with straw. If the soil be not of a porous nature, we would lay a plank floor for the ice to rest on, at least a foot high from the ground, and this should be covered a foot thick with straw, before putting on the ice. The entrance doors should be double, with a foot space between them. In filling the ice-house, if it be inconvenient to saw the ice into exact blocks, to match and lay up smooth within like mason work, then beat the lumps down with a heavy mallet as they are thrown in, and make the mass as compact as possible.

Mr. T. S. Pleasants, of Virginia, gives a very cheap model for an ice-house in our second volume, page 370; but as many of our present readers may not have seen it, we republish it for their benefit.

"The best ice-house I have ever seen, is one made in as cheap and rude a manner as the plainest farmer could desire. On the side of a hill a pit was dug; a simple pen of logs supported the walls; it was covered with rived pine slabs, and so open as to admit a free circulation of air. During the heat of the day, the sun shines full upon the roof. And withal, the pit is only 12 feet square, by 14 feet deep. It has been in use now for six or seven years, and has never been clear of ice since it was first filled. Two years ago, when the winter was so mild, it was only half filled, with thin ice; and yet there was some remaining at the end of the next season. In the construction of this house, there is nothing to distinguish it, except the perfect draining."



ICE-HOUSE.—FIG. 65.

For the sketch of Fig. 65 and its description, we are indebted to the London Gardener's Chronicle.

a b a, Conical hole in the ground.

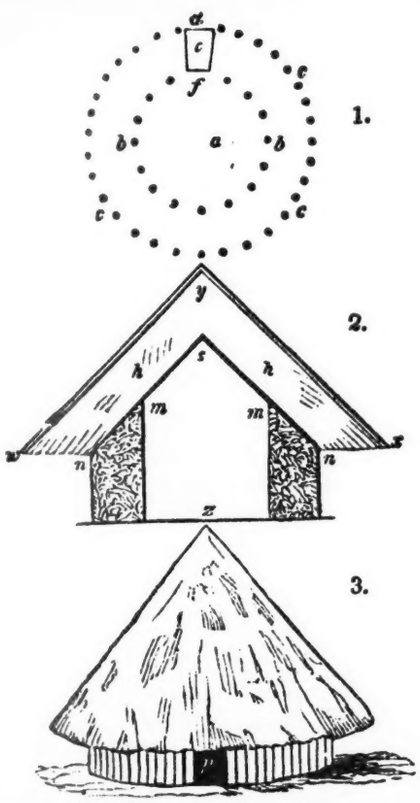
c b, Stones or rubble, to act as a drain 18 inches deep.

a d, Slabs 4 feet high above the surface.

e, Door.

f, A trap door, to answer a similar one on the opposite side, to be opened in a dry air, and carefully closed when the circumambient atmosphere is damp.

Cobbett, in his Cottage Economy, gives the following plan and description for an ice-house, which may be conveniently adopted in this country with slight modifications.



ICE-HOUSE.—FIG. 66.

The best form is the circular; and the house, when made, appears as I have endeavored to describe it in 3 of Fig. 66. 1, *a*, is the centre of a circle, the diameter of which is ten feet, and at this centre you put up a post to stand fifteen feet above the level of the ground, which post ought to be about nine inches through at the bottom, and not a great deal smaller at the top. Great care must be taken that this post be perfectly perpendicular; for, if it be not, the whole building will be awry.

b b b, Are fifteen posts, nine feet high, and six inches through at the bottom, without much tapering towards the top. These posts stand about two feet apart, reckoning from centre of post to centre of post, which leaves between each two a space of 18 inches.

c c c c, Are fifty-four posts, five feet high, and five inches through at the bottom, without much tapering towards the top.

These posts stand about two feet apart, from centre of post to centre of post, which leaves between each two a space of nineteen inches. The space between these two rows of posts is four feet in width, and, as will be presently seen, is to contain a wall of straw.

e, Is a passage through this wall; *d*, is the outside door of the passage; *f*, is the inside door; and the inner circle of which *a* is the centre, is the place in which the ice is to be deposited.

Well, then, we have now got the posts up; and, before we talk of the roof of the house, or of the bed for the ice, it will be best to speak about the making of the wall. It is to be made of straw, wheat-straw, or rye-straw, with no rubbish in it, and made very smooth by the hand as it is put in. You lay it in very closely and very smoothly, so that if the wall were cut across as at *g g*, in 2 (which 2 represents the whole building cut down through the middle, omitting the centre post), the ends of the straw would present a compact face as they do after a cut of a chaff-cutter. But there requires something to keep the straw from bulging out between the posts. Little stakes as big as your wrist will answer this purpose. Drive them into the ground, and fasten, at top, to the plates, of which I am now to speak. The plates are pieces of wood which go all round both the circles, and are nailed on upon the tops of the posts. Their main business is to receive and sustain the lower ends of the rafters, as at *m m* and *n n*, in 2. But to the plates also the stakes just mentioned must be fastened at top. Thus, then, there will be this space of four feet wide, having on each side of it a row of posts and stakes, not more than about six inches from each other, to hold up, and to keep in its place, this wall of straw.

Next come to the rafters, as from *s* to *n*, in 2. Carpenters best know what is the number and what the size of the rafters; but from *s* to *m* there need be only about half as many as from *m* to *n*. However, carpenters know all about this. It is their every-day work. The roof is forty-five degrees pitch, as the carpenters call it. If it were even sharper, it would be none the worse. There will be about thirty ends of rafters to lodge on the plate, as at *m*; and these cannot all be fastened to the top of the centre post rising up from *a*; but carpenters know how to manage this matter, so as to make all strong and safe. The plate which goes along on the tops of the row of posts, *b b b*, must, of course, be put on in a somewhat sloping form; otherwise there would be a sort of hip formed by the rafters. However, the thatch is to be so deep, that this may not be of much consequence. Before the thatching begins, there are laths to put up on the rafters. Thatchers know all about this, and all that you have to do is, to take care that the thatcher tie the straw on well. The best way, in a case of such deep thatch, is to have a strong man to tie for the thatcher. The roof is now raftered, and it is to receive a thatch of clean, sound, and well-prepared wheat or rye-straw, four feet thick, as at *h h* in 2.

The house having now got walls and roof, the next thing is to make the bed to receive the ice. This bed is the area of the circle of which *a* is the centre. You begin by laying on the ground round logs, eight inches through, or thereabouts, and placing them across the area, leaving spaces between them of about a foot. Then, crossways on them, poles about four inches through, placed at six inches apart. Then, crossways on them, other poles about two inches through, placed at three inches apart. Then, crossways on them, rods as thick as your finger, placed at an inch apart. Then, upon these, small clean, dry, last winter-cut twigs, to the thickness of about two inches; or, instead of these twigs, good, clean, strong heath, free from grass and moss, and from rubbish of all sorts. This is the bed for the ice to lie on; and, as you see, the top of the bed will

be seventeen inches from the ground. The pressure of the ice may, perhaps, bring it to fourteen, or to thirteen. Upon this bed the ice is put, broken and pummelled, and beaten down together in the usual manner.

Having got the bed filled with ice, we have next to shut it safely up. As we have seen, there is a passage (*e*). Two feet wide is enough for this passage, and, being as long as the wall is thick, it is, of course, four feet long. The use of the passage is this; that you may have two doors, so that you may, in hot or damp weather, shut the outer door, while you have the inner door open. This inner door may be of hurdle-work and straw, and covered, on one of the sides, with sheep-skins with the wool on, so as to keep out the external air. The outer door, which must lock, must be of wood, made to shut very closely, and, besides, covered with skins like the other. At times of great danger from heat, or from wet, the whole of the passage may be filled with straw. The door *p* at 3, should face the north, or between north and east.

As to the size of the ice-house, that must, of course, depend upon the quantity of ice that you may choose to have. A house on the above scale is, from *w* to *x* in 2, twenty-nine feet; from *y* to *z* in 2, nineteen feet. The area of the circle, of which *a* is the centre, is ten feet in diameter, and as this area contains seventy-five superficial feet, if you put ice on the bed to the height of only five feet (and you may put it on to the height of seven feet from the top of the bed) you will have three hundred and seventy-five cubic feet of ice, and, observe, a cubic foot of ice will, when broken up, fill much more than a Winchester bushel: even Dives himself would hardly call for more than two bushels of ice in a day; for more than two bushels a day it would be unless it were used in cold as well as in hot weather.

As to the expense of such a house, it could, in the country, not be much. None of the posts, except the main or centre-post, need be very straight. The other posts might be easily culled from tree-lops, destined for firewood. The straw would make all straight. The plates must of necessity be short pieces of wood; and, as to the stakes, the laths, and the logs, poles, rods, twigs, and heath, they would not all cost twenty shillings. The straw is the principal article; and in most places even that would not cost more than two or three pounds. If it last many years, the price could not be an object; and if but a little while, it would still be nearly as good for litter as it was before it was applied to this purpose. How often the bottom of the straw walls might want renewing I cannot say, but I know that the roof would, with few and small repairs, last well for ten years. I have said that the interior row of posts is to be nine feet high, and the exterior row five feet high. I, in each case, mean, with the plate inclusive. I have only to add, that by way of superabundant precaution against bottom wet, it will be well to make a sort of gutter, to receive the drip from the roof, and to carry it away as soon as it falls.

Now, after expressing a hope that I shall have made myself clearly understood by every reader, it is necessary that I remind him, that I do not pretend to pledge myself for the complete success, nor for any success at all, of this mode of making ice-houses. But, at the same time, I express my firm belief, that complete success would attend it; because it not only corresponds with what I have seen of such matters, but I had the details from a gentleman who had ample experience to guide him, and who was a man on whose word and judgment I placed a perfect reliance. He advised me to erect an ice-house; but not caring enough about fresh meat and fish in summer, or, at least, not setting them enough above "prime pork" to induce me to take any trouble to secure the former, I never built an ice-house. Thus, then, I only communicate that in which I believe; there is, however, in all cases, this comfort, that if the thing fail as an ice-house, it will serve all generations to come as a model for a pig-bed.

European Agriculture—No. 4.

My last letter was written, I believe, at Milan, amid the hurry of a rapid progress through Venetian Lombardy. We had decided to cross the Alps at Mount Cenis, and with that object took our seats in a slow diligence for Turin.

Between Milan and Novara the country is low, and planted with Indian corn, or laid down to wheat and grass, which were kept in a state of most thrifty growth by the constant irrigation for which this part of Italy possesses unusual facilities. In the more wet spots basket willows were growing in large quantities, and were said to be no inconsiderable source of revenue to the proprietors. This tree will flourish equally well in this country, grows most luxuriantly, and if planted by the side of brooks and ponds, or in swamps, would form, without expense or cultivation, a permanent source of profit to the American proprietor. There are many articles of European production which the greater value attached to labor in this country will not allow us to cultivate with advantage. This, however, is not one of them, and it is somewhat surprising that the landholder will let slip so desirable a means of securing a permanent revenue from unoccupied lands, when the tree will grow so easily from cuttings, which can be planted by a child of 12 years.

Near Turin the country is more hilly, and the soil not so good, but planted with vines, rice, willows, and some noble fig trees of large size. Few things can be more beautiful than these Italian vineyards. Mulberry trees at regular intervals of 20 to 30 feet covered a large tract; the vines are planted at the foot of these, and running up soon cover the trees, from which they are then gracefully festooned to the next, until the whole field exhibits successive rows of inverted arches of living green. One may then easily imagine its beautiful appearance in the vintage season, when the graceful festoons are weighed down with heavy clusters of rich and luscious fruit, and the peasantry scattered among the fields finishing the labors of the day by dancing around the loaded wagon, while the rich and mellow glow of an Italian sun-set lights up the bright, manly face of the peasant, and the expressive eye and often beautiful features of the Italian peasant girl.

Throughout Venetian Lombardy, one cannot avoid admiring the fine oxen that are frequently met on the road. They are large, clean-limbed animals, of a rich cream color, with fine arching horns, and good action. We frequently met flocks of Merino sheep, and occasionally some good cows.

Turin is a very regular city, with streets at right angles, and is occupied by a bright-looking popula-

tion of a German cast of countenance. There is at Turin a good botanic garden, belonging to the University. Quite an extent of fine turf is planted with trees, shrubs, and plants, while a rapid stream courses through the grounds. The walls are covered with grapes, and in the orangery and greenhouses is a very good collection of exotics. There are several villas, and also a royal garden, none of which, however, possess any particular attraction.

From Turin to Susa at the foot of Mount Cenis, the country possesses no distinctive features; but its comparative tameness was more than balanced by the beauty and grandeur that surrounded our passage across the Alps. For although it did not entirely realize my expectations, the terms grand and beautiful are certainly no exaggeration. Mountains, abrupt declivities, and precipices surrounded us on all sides, while the light of the moon on their snow-capped summits, rendered the shadows below still deeper and more dark. At one time we would pass through the body of an immense avalanche, and at another seem hovering upon the brink of a precipice, which overhung a ravine some hundreds of feet below us. Amid all this natural grandeur the solitude was unbroken, save by the creaking of our sleigh or the cry of the driver to his horses. Yet I have said I was disappointed—grandeur there was in abundance, but there was wanting the beauty of forest foliage. I had wandered among the hills of the beautiful islands in the Caribbean sea, and crossed the Andes at points nearly 8,000 feet above the level of the ocean, where the noblest forest trees covered the loftiest summits, while on the steep declivities, the delicate flowers and foliage of the coffee, the cocoa, and the lime, formed a delightful contrast with the more noble beauty of the mahogany and bucara trees. It was thus that the beauty of foliage had become inseparably connected with my conceptions of mountain scenery, and the Alps seemed deficient in one important feature of natural beauty. Yet without this, there was much to impress the mind and to render our passage across the Alps an occurrence of no ordinary interest. After descending the mountain we again took wheels, and passing through Chambery arrived at Geneva in very good condition to enjoy its comforts.

Geneva is one of the most agreeable cities on the continent, and the most desirable for a permanent residence. It is situated on a lake of remarkable beauty, and its scenery is familiar to every one as described by the poetic pen of one whose genius and talents were equalled only by his depravity.

The people have an appearance of much quiet intelligence, and independence of thought and bearing, which, to an American eye, forms an agreeable contrast with the servility and superstition of the inhabitants of some of the neighboring countries. In the vicinity of the town are a number of villas sloping down to the lake, and some very prettily laid out and planted with trees and shrubs to the very foot of the lawn, which is washed by the waters of the lake. Geneva possesses a very good botanic garden, founded by the celebrated botanist De Candolle, and still bearing pasted upon its walls the rules and regulations framed by himself. The garden is laid out rectangularly, with a fountain in the middle, and a good collection of ornamental trees and plants. There is also a fine specimen ground of dwarf pears and other fruits, well pruned and covered with fruit spurs. The pears are ten years old, and only about six feet distant from each other. In the greenhouse is a good collection of plants, among which I noticed a fine Astrapea, and a large specimen of the *Araucaria imbricata*. The garden forms a promenade for the citizens, and in the afternoon can be seen there all the elite and fashion of the city, with young school girls and children with their nurses. It is somewhat celebrated for its schools, many of which are of an excellent character, and are frequented by American and English children, who can there obtain a correct French pronunciation, without being exposed to the contaminating influences of a city like Paris. Geneva is the favorite residence of many English families, and the society is consequently of a very agreeable character. In the vicinity of the city are a number of florists and nurserymen, whose business is however limited. In a room near the botanic Garden is a collection of agricultural implements which were well formed, and mostly the invention of Fellenberg, whose excellent agricultural school is at Hoffwyl, about nine miles from Berne, and is probably the best establishment of the kind existing.

Taking diligence from Geneva to Lausanne, and thence to Berne, we passed through some of the finest parts of Switzerland, over mountains, through ravines, and among waterfalls and rivulets. Much of the scenery is very fine; but in beauty it will not equal much that is on the Hudson river, or in the interior of Pennsylvania. White spruce, pines, and Alpine flowers were abundant.

Berne possesses nothing of much interest, and we soon proceeded on to Basle. This is a flourishing town on the Rhine, and is the commencement of the line of railroads connecting Switzerland with the Atlantic. The railroad passes near the Rhine through Strasburg, celebrated for its patés de foies gras, or pies of goose's liver. To obtain the materials for these a most barbarous treatment of the bird is practised. They are shut up in a very confined and warm place, and food is forced down their throat until the livers become of enormous size. The pie is considered a great delicacy, but to me it was decidedly disagreeable. Strasburg is also celebrated for a fine statue of Kleber, a good cathedral, and a very beautiful monument to Marshal Saxe, which, although made of coarse stone, was superior in character and expression to any group of statuary we saw in Italy. Marshal Saxe died in Paris, and being a Protestant requested to be buried in Strasburg, the only Protestant town in the French dominions. From Strasburg to Manheim is a ride by railroad of about six hours. This is a pleasant place, with regular streets and some fine houses. The suburbs contain vineyards, country seats, and small tea gardens, to which the inhabitants of all classes resort. The gardens of the palace are laid out with some taste, in winding walks and shrubbery, but are kept in bad order. The country about Manheim is very low and uninteresting, and at this period was flooded for many miles back from the Rhine. Leaving Manheim by steamboat we ran rapidly down the Rhine to Mayence, where we stopped for the night. The next morning we found that the river had overflowed its banks to a great extent, and entirely cut off our return to the boat. Making a detour, however, around the upper part of the town, we succeeded by means of boards

and planks in reaching the boat, and were glad to find ourselves on the way to Cologne. The great quantity of snow that had fallen was now melting from the mountains, and the small streams poured their swollen torrents into the Rhine, whose waters were constantly increasing and driving hundreds of families from their homes. All around us were seen houses with the water above their second story windows.

On arriving at Cologne we found a great part of the town flooded, and after some difficulty were comfortably ensconced in the second story of a hotel, just out of the water, not, however, without the apprehension of being turned out before morning. Here circumstances compelled us to remain a few days, and partake of the dullness of the city of perfumes; for dreary indeed is Germany, both city and country, amid the watery desolation and chilling temperature of a winter like the present. It was here that I often found myself looking back with something like regret to the pleasant fire-sides and agreeable society of our own America. European travelling is often productive of much instruction to one who wishes to obtain information, and he cannot well return from such a trip without feeling that he has reaped many advantages, if no actual increase in his store of knowledge, yet as far as regards pleasure and enjoyment, there is much more in anticipation and retrospect than in reality; and one soon becomes convinced that there is no place where rational pleasure and true social enjoyment can so well be found, as in that where men, trees, and localities excite vivid recollections of former days, of early associations and of things that once were. S. B. Parsons.

Cologne, March, 1845.

LAWRENCE'S TONGUELESS-BUCKLE.

Here is an improvement. It is designed for the traces or tugs of harness. It is useful and economical; and will save money, time, and vexation. With the ordinary buckle, the trace is weakened by the hole made to admit the tongue. When a trace, uniformly sound, breaks, it is always at the buckle, its weakest part. To obviate this, all those engaged in heavy draught have of late years ceased the use of buckles for traces, and adopted chains at the end of the trace with rings on the whiffle-trees. Farmers and stage proprietors especially have resorted to this mode of attachment. But the objection to the chains is, that with sudden jerks, especially in frosty weather, they are liable to break. This rarely ever happens with a sound trace, except at the buckle holes. Hence the great necessity of some plan to obviate this evil; and in Mr. Lawrence's buckle it is perfectly done. The buckle is a *lever*. It is applied in this manner. There is a loop; three sides (one of which is long and grooved) of the loop are fixed, the fourth is the lower end (but not the extremity), and is movable. The lever is double, and is like and looks like an ordinary buckle; that is, it is a lever of two arms, with a cross piece at the ends of the arms. The fulcrum of the lever is at the extremity; and the fulcrum is pivoted into the loop, so that a part of the lever just above the fulcrum makes the fourth side of the loop. It will thus be seen that the lever, having a pivoted fulcrum, may by motion widen or narrow the loop. The lever is curved. The trace passes through the loop and the hole in the lever. The curve of the lever gives an oblique direction to the trace just at the buckle. Draught straightens the trace. As the lever gives an oblique direction to the trace, the draught in straightening the trace presses the lever up in such a manner that the loop is narrowed. The trace being in the loop is pressed firmly. The draught cannot entirely straighten the trace, the buckle-lever being too much curved to allow it. So long as the trace is in the loop, there is some capacity in the lever to move in the direction of its power. The only chance for the escape of the trace is, that it shall break at the loop. But there is less liability of this there than in any other part; for the pressure which holds the trace in the loop, condenses the trace at the point of pressure. The surface of the loop is *smooth*; for although one side is grooved, the grooving is smooth and not sharp or angular (indeed the grooving is not necessary); therefore, the trace cannot be cut. But no ordinary pressure can crush leather, perhaps no pressure whatever, and certainly no pressure that can arise from the draught of a horse. The pressure which condenses the trace gives greater strength to the trace, and this pressure is applied at the point where the trace is held. Then the trace is strengthened at the place of weakness, in traces adjusted with the ordinary buckle, and this is an important point.

The merits of this buckle are, 1st, that it obviates the necessity of cutting holes in the trace to admit a tongue; this leaves the trace as strong at the point of application of the buckle as at any other point. 2d, It strengthens the trace at the point of fastening by condensing; this compensates (and more) for the slight wear at the point of fastening. 3d, The greater the draught the more firmly the trace is pressed; this gives greater strength with the greater draught, just the reverse of the tongue-buckle. Of course the trace *cannot* break at the point where the buckle holds it. These are positive merits, and in these respects it is superior to tongue-buckles. Is it in anything inferior? No!

It is attached in the same manner as ordinary buckles. Besides the parts described, there is a loop for attaching it to the hame-tug; but here it has a positive advantage. Not only may it be attached to the hame-tug as ordinary buckles, but it may have the hame-tug pass through the loop, and be fastened in the same manner as the trace; thus in case the ordinary manner of attaching gives way, the loop may be used to fasten. The method of taking up or letting out the trace is just as simple, and is always as easy and generally more easy, than in the common buckle. It is sometimes very difficult to either shorten or lengthen the trace when attached to tongue-buckles; with the tongueless buckle never.

The peculiar merit of this buckle may be illustrated by the arch. The greater the weight the more firmly its parts are held, and the stronger the arch; the abutments supporting the arch are weakened by the weight on the arch. With this buckle it is the same; the trace is the more firmly held, and the stronger the greater the draught, and the greater the draught the weaker the buckle. But the buckle is stronger than any trace, and stronger than the power of any horse. It is stronger than any common buckle, for the draught is on the hame-tug and the trace. The power of the buckle being that of the lever, with a pivot for a fulcrum, its weak point is

the pivot. But the pivot is stronger than any horse, and cannot of course be broken. The scientific will comprehend this illustration of the power of the tongueless-buckle.

The unscientific mind will see its power by this illustration. Suppose the trace were screwed into a common vice, and the tug so adjusted that when pulled it would turn the screw which tightens the grasp of the vice upon the trace, and a perfect idea of the action of the tongueless-buckle will be had. The jaws of the vice represent the loop of this buckle; the thread of the screw the pivot of the buckle; and the handle which turns the screw, the lever of the buckle: and the action of the trace when pulled on the handle, in turning the screw and tightening the vice-jaws, the action of the trace when the horse draws, in moving the lever of the buckle, and the narrowing of the loop. In both, the greater the draught upon the trace, the stronger the grasp on it.

New York, August, 1845. A. STEVENS.

We heartily approve of Mr. Lawrence's capital improvement in the buckle. It will save thousands of dollars annually in every state, now expended to repair tugs, broken on account of the use of tongue-buckles. For all uses they are nearly as low in price as the common buckle. They have wisely been put at a low price to secure a large sale. One may be seen at our office, and we should be glad to supply orders from our friends. It is one of the greatest improvements of the age.

ENGLISH HORSES.

I am happy to announce the safe arrival of our friend * * * * * * *, and family—just *one day too late* for the Ascot-day!—for so an Englishman would mark the epoch, and consider it an irreparable loss. Not to see the "Darby race" is bad enough, but to miss Ascot is always considered the loss of that year, at least in a man's sporting life—and every English gentleman sports more or less. On these momentous occasions the houses of grave legislation adjourn—public offices do nothing—even law leaves its chambers—and doctors are not to be found at home! The citizen, the man of business, from the wealthiest banking and shipping houses, to the very cats'-meat-man, (*a*) the loafer, the laborer, the very beggar gives up his trade and will bet from a "breeder" to a "bull" (*b*) on his favorite. Yes, all London turns out on the "cup-day" at Ascot, and so did we; and such a day of suffering to be called pleasure I never toiled through. Such a hot sun—such a breathless atmosphere—such a dense *mass* of dust! It is folly to say *clouds* of dust, for clouds shift and move, and break away. No, when you doubt which way the carriage before you is moving, whether *to* you or *from* you—when you look over the wheel in vain to see if it be on or off the road—when in fact the voice grows husky and the eye dim, and men ride the road with their heads tied up in gauze, we may well talk of dust *en masse*. But all this passed as *pleasure!* Yes, it was an *excursion of pleasure*, or at least we started in pursuit of *pleasure*, and such were its constituents—to say nothing of the risks of life, the crash of carriages, the jam, the press, the crowd, the crush of vehicles and horses, the rush for places, and the demands made at every step on your purse for something or for nothing. At length we arrive at the course, our half sovereign is paid, and we are permitted to pass and seek a place along a line of carriages already standing three deep. Hardly have you "pulled up," hesitating and hopeless as to *where* to get a peep, your horses disappear, your pole is taken out, and your carriage lifted bodily as close up as possible to whatever may be next you, by a set of fellows who are ever at hand on such occasions, and whose officiousness decides your fate and all chance of further selection. You have yourself hardly left the carriage and landed on the ground, emerging from a cloud of dust disturbed by the movements, before one chap, brush in hand, has possessed himself of your hat, another is busily at work on your coat, while a third is on his knees brushing away at your boots, and another with a bucket of water and tin basin, urges upon you hydropathy in all its simplest form. "A cool wash, zur?—clear water, all fresh—dry directly, zur, in this-ere 'ot sun;" for not a rag of anything was there for a "vipe," save your own pocket-handkerchief.

Then commenced the race with the usual "there they go"—"here they come"—"blue has it"—"well done yellow"—"go it red." A pause of anxious suspense ensues. What a long interminable minute it is! Impatience calls it *ten;* but the watch declares it to be only one. The board is up. No. 4 is marked as the winner.(*c*) No. 4? Oh that's the Emperor! Yes, the Emperor won by half a head, &c. &c. Gloves are won and lost: so are shillings: and so indeed are thousands! Aye, the lady who has come on the course in her carriage and four, has left it in a borrowed conveyance!

It was a most trying day for both man and beast. No less than one hundred horses were left by the road side. Forty pounds was offered for an omnibus, and ten guineas for a donkey-cart; and what was our astonishment when the gypsey-looking owner declared "he couldn't do it no how for that money. A *bull*, mayhap, fotched you here, but it'll take a lot of *goldfinches* (*d*) to carry you back agin."

We had been more provident; for by engaging stalls at half a guinea each for a night's standing, and sending on relays, we got home comfortably, after a refreshing drive of seventeen miles, in the cool of the evening; and a most delightful drive it was as soon as we turned off from the main road of travel, and were disentangled from the mighty current that was setting towards London. The unparalleled excellence of the roads, winding and turning at every mile, without a stone, without the impress of a wheel, with a surface even and smooth as the nicest garden-walk, and edged by the turf on either side, cut and trimmed by a line; the hedges filled with flowers; the air loaded with fragrance; the foliage of the richest and most diversified green, and the fields of the most vivid color—all conspired to increase the enjoyment of our quiet ride home from such a scene of turmoil and excitement as we had been in. So much for *a day at Ascot.* But you have passed through it all, and I might have spared your time and my own, and devoted my paper to something better worth your perusal.

Now for a word or two about the horses: and when I tell you that Alice Hawthorn and Foig-a-Ballagh were beaten on that day, you will believe that England's best were there. And yet I can hardly make up my mind as to what effect the present

system of racing in England will have on those breeds of horses, which more or less partake of the racing blood. The horses bred for the turf go into training at two years old, and are consequently used up before they arrive at the age of maturity: they run short distances, and never heats. Thus the speed and not the endurance of the animal is tested. His strength, size, and temper must, however, under these circumstances, be properties of much attention and care, to enable these babies of the stable to stride through their half mile with feather weights on their backs. They show a symmetry of strength that surprised me, in the expanse of shoulder, size of the fore-arm, fulness of loin, and length of the hind quarters. Indeed, I am inclined to believe that the skeleton and mechanical powers of the horse are bred stronger on the modern system of racing than when such immature exertions were not demanded of him, and he was only called upon for work commensurate with his age and consequent developements. The question then is, whether, under this course of things, his *constitution* be impaired so as to affect his progeny, or are only his *mechanical parts* injured, affecting the ability solely of *individual performance.* I must confess that not long since I should not have entertained a question of the sort, but should have decided that the present system was ruinous. Now I am not sure that America could beat England at four-mile-heats, if her young animals which I have seen staggering through a race for two year olds, were allowed the same chance to attain maturity, and were called upon for no earlier work than the American racer. However, for want of more exact data, I leave it as an open question for the present.

While on the subject of horses, I must observe, that I perceive a great falling off in the style and beauty of the carriage horse; at the same time the hunter and the hack are as much an object of care and attention as ever. The four-in-hand club no longer exist, and indeed such a turn-out is rarely seen. A carriage and pair under the whip of a coachman (and that pair often from a job-stable) is all that is thought necessary for the convenience of the ladies while in town. Under this change you may well suppose the horses driven by the coachman are not selected with the same care, or turned out in the same style as when the coachman was thrust inside, and the owner and his friends were on the box.

In a former letter I remarked on the superior knee action of the English roadster, both in and out of the harness; and further observation has entirely confirmed my opinion in this particular, and it is in a degree accounted for by the fact that the colts are here wintered in yards, running up to their bellies in loose straw, where they cannot move even on a walk, except by a very high action of the knee. I am the more confirmed in this being the cause, from the fact that the horses imported into England from Hanover, expressly for the undertaker's business, where the extravagance of that action is required by *the fashion of the day,* are kept and brought up in yards deeply covered with straw, until they are taken into use, and are so kept with intent to produce that especial action; and many of them are left entire, in order that they may carry a more perfectly black coat. Undoubtedly something is attributable to the pains bestowed in breaking and bitting the animal, and in setting him well back on his haunches; all of which is very little attended to with us. While, however, the English horse has the more showy and *safer* action, our roadsters have the greater speed; and if we have not an equal sleekness and polish of coat, we have a better and more enduring constitution; for there was nothing on the Ascot-day that would have in the least distressed an American horse, and the papers stated there were over a hundred horses died from excessive heat and work!

Ponies are very much in use here from their not paying the same tax as a horse, and under twelve hands they pay no tax at all. They are driven by all classes, and the work they do is astonishing. Many of them are very beautiful and well broken. R.

(*a*) The cat's-meat-man is a person going about the streets of London, with a little dog-cart, crying, "cat's meat," in a singular high drawling tone. The meat is cut up in thin slices, and is frequently from the carcase of a dead horse. It is bought by the house-keepers for their cats, which, at the cry of the meat-man, rush mewing to the doors in great numbers, forming a ludicrous sight to the stranger in London.

(*b*) "Breeder" and "bull." The former is a cant phrase for a shilling, the latter for a crown piece.

(*c*) On the race-course in England, cards are distributed with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, &c., attached to each name of the horse which is to run. The moment the race is over a signal board is hoisted with the number of the winner on it, so that every person on the course sees it at once, and thus knows by looking at his card which horse has won. For example, suppose the figure 3 was placed in the card opposite the name of the Emperor; the moment he comes in victor, up goes the signal board with the number 3 on it, when the immense crowd present sees instantly that he was first. Racing in England is reduced to as exact a system almost as the movements of a clock, and when there, our enthusiastic love of horse-flesh induced us to study it with great zeal, not with a view of ever practising or countenancing the thing at home—for it is well known that in principle we are opposed to it—but to obtain all possible knowledge in our power on the subject of horses.

(*d*) "Goldfinch," a cant phrase for a guinea.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST ALMANAC.—A correspondent, writing us from St. Joseph, Michigan, says, "Please send me your Almanac for 1846. That of 1845 saved me four acres of corn from squirrel depredations; the one of 1844 taught me how to make excellent maple sugar; now I will see what I can learn from that of 1846. I regret you did not continue the publication in the style of 1844."

When we published our Almanac for 1844, it was our intention to have continued it from year to year in the same style; but an imitating cotemporary, who would have never thought of issuing an almanac had we not done so, immediately on its announcement, *magnanimously* got up another at *half price;* we were consequently obliged, the succeeding years, in order to compete with it, to issue a cheap affair. However, there is this consolation, in the matter, our Almanac now has a much more extensive sale than if at a higher price, and is therefore probably in the way of doing more good.

Ladies' Department.

FARMERS' WIVES.

We do not know whether it is a proved fact, that the atmosphere surrounding a farm necessarily changes the female sex into iron machines, capable of any amount of strength and labor, or whether when a farmer takes to himself a wife, he considers that he is only securing another domestic beast of burden, to rank in point of utility with his horse and ox; but we do know that in too many instances he lives and acts as if prompted by just such principles.

I do not intend by these expressions, any disparagement whatever to farming, as an occupation, for I consider it the noblest employment a man can engage in, the most healthful, the most conducive to morality and expansion of intellect, as well as the one, when properly conducted, best calculated to secure the greatest amount of happiness to his wife and children, and *I speak from experience.* But it must be confessed, it is sad as well as amusing, to look over the various agricultural periodicals and mark how multifarious the labors which a farmer's wife is bound in duty to perform; labors, the third, nay, the greater part of which, if imposed upon the wives of any other class of men, would be stigmatized as outrageous and absurd. In the first place, with a family twice as large as her next door neighbor's, whose husband is not a farmer, she is allowed but half the number of domestics—happy, indeed, if she secures more than that anomaly in the shape of *help*—a maid of all work. Then, it is argued, that nothing can prosper unless performed under her immediate supervision, and everything in the house, cooking, baking, washing, ironing, sweeping, scouring, dusting, with all the thousand other *ings* necessary, require her presence to ensure their proper performance. Next, and we will suppose in mercy that her children are not numerous, all the clothing for herself and family she must make and keep in repair; and it is *hinted* that it would be a very fine thing if farmers' wives would spin and manufacture their cloth, before they fashion it for use. They must, of course, make the sausages, try out the lard, cure the hams, and dry the herbs; while her husband is advised that if he gives the poultry-yard into her care, he will be much more likely to secure a good stock of chickens against Christmas, as well as more eggs for market. It is also asserted as a moral impossibility, that butter and cheese cannot be good, unless she scalds the pans, sets the milk, and skims and churns all with her own hands. And last—for I shall tire with these enumerations, though not half through the list, she is urged to cultivate her mind; and it is enforced as the highest duty, that she considers the education of her children entrusted to her charge.

Now I would ask where is the most willingly disposed woman to find *time* for all these things, laying aside the health and strength necessarily requisite for such unceasing toil. That she should endeavor to be a good housekeeper is allowed; that she should endeavor, as far as possible, to be an assistant to her husband, is right; but if it is admitted that the instruction of her children (and the capability for that, presupposes the culture of her own intellect), is a paramount duty, why should she be obliged to utterly neglect such an important matter, and waste so much of the precious time that might be given to them, in doing and overseeing things which others can as well do and oversee for themselves. I have heard it remarked of such and such farmers, that they did not get along well, and the suggestion thrown in that they had not the right kind of wives, they did not "see to things" enough, when the truth was, the poor wives "saw" to things altogether too much, so that for them, the old adage of "too many cooks spoil the broth," might be more aptly rendered by too many employments spoil the cook.

This unjust taxation upon a woman's time and strength, arises no doubt, in a measure, from the fact that the greatest annual outgo upon a farm is for hired labor, and the farmer, seeing this is the most obvious drainage from his purse, strives in every way to prevent it. And he generally commences in the house, thinking what is done there, being only "woman's work," cannot amount to much, never observing, that his method is giving his wife a round of never-ending duties, which is the lot of no other upon the place, while the amount thus saved is more than spent again, in repairing the perpetual accidents that will constantly occur, where there is only one to do the work of half-a-dozen, as well as in medicine and doctor's bills; for although many men think that when their wives are continually moving about, they are only taking exercise, yet exercise carried to excess is as injurious as perpetual inaction; and though a degree of fatigue is allowed to be beneficial, yet, to have the faculties constantly on the stretch and wearied, is as much a violation of the laws of physiology, as to neglect the use of them altogether. But chapters might be written upon this, and I will pass on to some illustrations drawn from life, not fictitious—I wish some of them were.

Mr. A. is the possessor of a farm containing some three hundred acres, which was left him by his father, together with a small sum of money, sufficient to make him what is called "better off" than the generality of working farmers. He married a young, intelligent, healthy, country girl, the daughter of a farmer, and one who had been accustomed to a part in the household labor, from childhood. She had also been accustomed to seeking daily exercise and amusement in the open air, and to passing a portion of her leisure in reading and study, of which she was very fond. She married with high anticipations of enjoyment; but time soon proved them delusive. She found it was the height of folly for a *farmer's wife* to think of rambling in the woods for flowers, and that it was perfectly useless to inhale the fresh air, unless she ran out in a great hurry to see what was the matter with the chickens, or to look up eggs for some purpose of cookery. There was no time for books, as every thought must be given up to that one of work! work! work! from morning till night. Still she had one dream left, and that was, when her little ones were old enough, she could begin to teach them, and thus renew her own knowledge; but when they had grown old enough, where was the time when she could be spared even to teach the youngest of the group its A, B, C.'s? As this hope departed, much anxiety was added to her many burdens, and the health which had long been giving way, failed faster and faster. Still she must work while she could, till at last nature could hold out no longer, and the first words that met the ear of the now

really alarmed husband, were those death-knelling ones, consumption—and incurable! Consumption how induced? Not by any hereditary taint, but as his conscience too surely told him, by a violation of all nature's laws, the disregard of which he himself had compelled, and these compunctions received only additional strength from his wife's dying request, "that in seeking one to fill her place, he should procure a mother for his children, not a servant for his work."

Mr. B.'s wife was thought to be, when he married her, a woman of a high order of intellect, as well as an excellent housekeeper, and she might have remained till this time, the pride of her husband and friends, as she was then, had her intellect been allowed any nourishment. We do not know *why* it is, but it has often been remarked, and is certainly very true, that let a woman, possessing ever so superior intellectual endowments, suffer them to be neglected and run into disuse, she becomes in time more apparently devoid of mental culture, than those who never laid any claim to it. So it has been with Mrs. B. She could not give up her favorite pursuits without a struggle, but when once fairly set aside, she sank rapidly into that characterless being, a domestic drudge, "cookery her Christianity, and hers a kitchen creed." And now you may find her with no higher ambition than to invent a new dish for the table, out of some odds and ends there is no economy in saving, with but one literary companion, and that a book of recipes! Her friends cannot visit her, unless they are willing to pass their whole time among pots and kettles in the kitchen; her children roam at large, attending school or not, as they please; while her husband sighs over the sleep of an intellect which was once his boast, and well he may, for his own hand laid the spell.

The next example is a common one. It is that of an apparently amiable temper soured by continual thwarting of desires, physical fatigues, and vexing mental cares. Mr. C. could hardly recognize the gentle maiden he wooed for his wife, in the scolding termagant who now rules his house. He forgets, however, that the gentler nature was crushed by the weight of burdens heavier than it could bear, and that the spirit which has arisen from its ruins, is but a power determined to assert its own rights.

But let us turn to the fairer side of the picture. Mr. D. possesses land amounting to just the same number of acres as that of Farmer A. first mentioned, though he does not possess the same amount of means; what he has laid by, having been entirely from the results of his own labors. He is a man, as Mr. A. would think, exceedingly ultra in his notions upon subjects, especially so upon the very one of which we have been treating. His wife is an intelligent, highly-cultivated woman, fully capable of appreciating her good fortune, in being connected with one upon whose head the organ of benevolence is as largely developed, as upon her husband's. The number of his out-door laborers is large, yet he allows her a cook, a chambermaid, and oh, tell it not in Gath, a third domestic to assist in taking care of the children. Mrs. D. has time to walk for exercise, to visit her friends and have them visit her, to read not only all her husband's farming books, but to keep up with the useful knowledge of the day. She is teaching her oldest boy Latin, and his sister botany, while the instruction of the younger ones devolves almost entirely upon her. She is never idle, and her husband's fear oftener is that she will do too much, rather than that she will not do enough. What is the result of this? Some will answer, or they ought to, if their theories are in conformity with their practice, that such a farmer is on the high road to ruin; that everything will be going to waste while his wife is gadding; he will be behindhand every year from the expense of so much "help," and that before long he will find out his mistake. Unfortunately for our theorists, evidences are to the contrary of all this. His house is as neat in every part, as neat as can be, though his wife does sometimes allow the chambermaid to sweep and dust and scour on her own responsibility; his meals are well cooked, the strictest economy observed, and nothing wasted, although his wife is not for ever in the kitchen. She has sometimes been so rash as to allow the cook to try out the lard, yet it has never been spoiled; but worse than all, their butter has more than once received a premium, and yet Mrs. D. does not churn it, or skim the milk, or even scald the pans! As to this last matter, however, I would observe, that she thinks in common with most good housekeepers, that the business of the dairy is much more secure of good care when under the sole management of the mistress herself, than when given into the charge of others; but she thinks also, as does her husband, that there may be things of more importance sometimes interfering with such an arrangement, which should be first attended to. His farm is becoming more productive, and he is laying by more money every year—yet with such ultra motives!

E. M. C.

To Preserve Biscuit from Putrefaction.—To preserve biscuit a long time sweet and good, no other art is necessary than stowing it well-baked in casks exactly caulked, and carefully lined with tin, so as to exclude the air; at the same time the biscuit must be so placed as to leave as little vacant room as possible in the cask; and when the same is opened through necessity, it must be speedily closed again with great care.—*Family Receipt Book.*

To Make Artificial or Potatoe Bread.—Put a pound of potatoes in a net, into a skillet with cold water, and, lest the skin break and let in the water, hang it at a distance, so as not to boil over the fire, till they become soft; then skin, mash, and rub them so as to be well mixed, with a pound of flour, a very large spoonful of salt, and two large spoonfuls of yeast; but less of the yeast is better. Then add a little warm water, and knead it up as other dough; lay it a little while before the fire to ferment or rise, then bake it in a very hot oven. Bread made in this manner has been frequently tried, and found to be well-tasted, wholesome, and of good consistence.—*Ib.*

To discover if Bread is Adulterated with Alum.—Make a solution of lime in aquafortis, and put a little of this solution into water, in which you have steeped the bread suspected to contain alum. If such should be the case, the acid, which was combined with the alum, will form a precipitate or chalky concretion at the bottom of the vessel.—*Ib.*

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

By the steamship Hibernia, we have our regular file of European journals to August 5th.

MARKETS.—*Ashes* a limited sale and prices lower. *Cotton* depressed, with a downward tendency. The stock on hand at Liverpool on the 1st of August, was 1,058,000 bales; against 998,000 same period last year. *Flour* and *Grain*, in consequence of the bad harvest prospects, on the advance. *Beef* has fallen a trifle. *Pork* is more firmly held. *Lard* on the rise, and fine much wanted. *Cheese* little in market, and good qualities would probably sell well. *Rice* in good demand. *Tallow* brisk, and a still further advance.

Money a little more in demand, and discounts had risen ¼ per cent.

American Stocks slightly depressed.

The Weather was rainy and cold, and considered so unfavorable for the harvest, that quite a speculative feeling was up in the corn market.

English Agricultural Society.—The annual show of this noble Society took place at Shrewsbury, commencing the 15th July, and continuing four days. Owing to the rather isolated situation of this town, the number of people, cattle, and implements present, were not as great as on former occasions; but the stock was of a superior kind, showing a marked improvement in this respect. Dinners, speeches, and good feeling, and schemes for the improvement of the agricultural class, seemed to be the order of the day.

An Immense Strawberry.—We find in the Gardener's Chronicle of August 2d, the outline of the exact size of a British Queen Strawberry, grown the past season by Mr. Stobbs, of Lincoln. It measures in the outline, 3¼ in. long, and 1¾ in. deep The circumference, of course, we cannot give. We presume it was flat-shaped. It weighed a little more than an ounce and a half.

Influence of Galvanic Electricity on the Germination of Seeds.—Mr. Edward Solly read a paper before the late meeting of the British Association for the advancement of science, in which he states, that his experiments on this subject did not in any way prove that germination was stimulated by electricity; but, judging from the known powers of electricity, it would be reasonable to expect, that, like light and heat, it would exert marked influence on the growth of vegetables, in fact, act as a stimulus. Mr. Solly then described the recent experiments which have been made on this subject, and gave an account of an extensive series, at present being made in the gardens of the Horticultural Society. Seeds of barley, wheat, rye, turnip, and radish, were, in several different experiments, found to germinate with increased rapidity, when exposed to the influence of a feeble current of electricity of very low tension, and the plants not only came up sooner, but were more healthy than others. These experiments certainly appeared decisive in favor of the stimulating effect of electricity on germination, as distinguished from the mere chemical effect produced by electricity; but, on the other hand, a number of experiments on other seeds had given quite opposite results, proving either that the germination of some seeds was retarded, whilst that of others was facilitated by electricity: or, that the effects, observed in both cases, were merely incidental. Out of a series of 55 experiments on different seeds, 20 appeared in favor of electricity, 10 against it, and 25 showed no effect whatever; and, on carefully counting the whole number of seeds up in the entire series, there were found 1250 of the electrified, and 1253 of the non-electrified seeds up. In conclusion, Mr. Solly stated that he felt very doubtful whether the effects observed were really due to the influence of electricity.

Theory of the Utility of Rotation—Were I writing on this subject as a mere theorist, I might say that any course of rotation might be followed, and any crops taken which the farmer chose, and in any order of succession, provided the substances which the crops carry off from the land are faithfully restored to it. This is a favorite doctrine at present among some agricultural theorists. But the study of practical farming has taught me that this kind of closet cultivation would not produce good returns on all our soils. The mechanics of agriculture are almost as essential to the management of the soil as the chemistry of agriculture; and it is because the former is not understood in our laboratories, that the confident announcements of the mere chemist have hitherto been so frequently at variance with the practical experience of the money-making farmer. The natural habits of the plant we seek to grow have also much to do with the mode of culture. A minute knowledge of varieties, even of the same plant, is often a very important element in successful farming.—*Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.*

An Extraordinary Rhubarb Leaf, of the Victoria kind, was exhibited in Stamford market on Saturday last; it measured 6 feet 4 inches in length, 4 feet across, and weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. It was grown at Lyndon, Rutland, in the garden of Mr. Barfield. The cultivation of the rhubarb plant seems to have arrived at great perfection in some parts of Rutland, the soil being well adapted for its growth. Many persons make wine from it, and it is said to be a very cooling and pleasant beverage.—*Stamford Mercury.*

Use of Sulphuric Acid with Bones as Compost.—With reference to Mr. Pusey's suggestion as to the propriety of using bone-dust (dissolved in sulphuric acid) along with *compost* instead of *water* for turnips, I can confirm his idea from practice, having last year manured 5 acres with only 13 bushels of bone-dust dissolved in 270 lbs. of sulphuric acid and 150 gallons of water. After standing twenty-four hours, the liquid was mixed with 3 cart-loads of *coal-ashes*, and left to remain for a week, during which time it was turned over two or three times. The mixture was then drilled along with the seed, and the result was a fair crop of common turnips, off a piece of poor land, without other manure, and at the cost of only 12s. 9d. per acre.—*English Ag. Soc. Journ.*

Utility of Sowing Wheat Thick.—Nature in seeking to supply what is wanting by thin sowing, will continue to throw out as the roots gain the requisite power, a succession of ears till so late in the season that it will be impossible for the crop to ripen uniformly; the inevitable consequence of which will be an undue proportion of small and defective grain in the produce.—*Ib.*

Water Meadows of the Duke of Portland.—These meadows comprise an area of upwards of 300 acres of land, extending over a distance of about seven miles in length. They are watered by the river Maun, as it flows eastward from the town of Mansfield. The value of the land has been raised from the annual sum of 80*l.* to that of 3,660*l.*, at a cost (from their commencement in 1816 to their completion in 1837) of 40,000*l.* The profit upon each acre, after defraying all expenses, is computed at nearly 12*l.* a-year, without taking into consideration the great benefit they are to the arable land adjoining them, which, in the words of Mr. Denison, they "enrich to an extent of five times that of their own." Stretching through a dry sandy district for so long a distance, and thus fertilizing increasingly land so dependent on foreign aid, must show at a glance their almost incalculable value. As a triumph of art, they must be considered one of the most brilliant and complete of any that is known, reflecting credit equally on the talents of the noble owner as projector, and on the intelligence of Mr. Tebbet, as executor of the works.—*Ib.*

Wages of Agricultural Laborers in France.—The wages of laborers seem to be lower in France, even in proportion to the low price of provisions, than in England. The General Council of the different departments fix tariffs for regulating the price at which different services shall be convertible into money. By these the price of a day's work of a laboring man is rated generally at 10d., never higher than 12½d., and sometimes as low as 7½d.; that of a horse or mule from 10d. to 12½d; and the hire of a two-wheeled cart, from 10d. to 15d. These low rates of payment render the waste of labor of men and horses, so much reproached by the Scotch to their neighbors, less astonishing in France than in England, where it is sometimes carried to a greater extent. In plowing, a man usually works three horses in Normandy, and only two men accompany the largest merchant waggons, one driving and the other sometimes asleep in front, or in the hammock below. Frequently, however, one sees strong men employed at such work as a woman, or even a child, might quite as well perform, such as weeding corn with the wooden pincers used for that purpose, or herding a few geese or sheep at the road sides.—*Journal of Agriculture.*

An Extraordinary Prolific Sow.—Our respected townsman, Mr. Chas. Minshull, of Highgate, has a sow which has produced him 61 pigs in one year, viz., on the 13th of May, 1844, 21; 5th of November, 18; 1st of May, 1845, 22; total 61. Of this valuable breed Mr. Minshull has brawn of the November litter.—*Birmingham Advertiser.*

Industry of German Women.—In my way from Spa, I saw a woman threshing in a barn with a man; she beat her time well, and laid it on as hard as her partner. This, I think, nearly makes up the list of female accomplishments. Brick-making, stone-breaking, wheat-sowing, reaping, mowing, threshing, and carrying heavy loads, are pretty little additions to the burdens that nature lays upon the sex. I have not yet seen any female postillions, or top-sawyers, but I live in hopes. In the evening band at the Brunnen, at Aix, a woman plays the violoncello.—*Journal of a Patient under the Hot Water Cure.*

Water in a Sheep's Head.—Strange but True.—Mr. John Scurr, farmer, of Greenside Trimdon, near Sedgefield, a short time ago had a sheep, which, for a fortnight, had been ill. Three days it was unable to get upon its feet. Mr. Scurr happened to have a friend, who called upon him on business, and they together went to see the sheep. His friend pronounced the animal all but dead, it being ill of the "sturdy," or water in the head, which he said was incurable. They consequently left the sheep to die. A servant boy, named Gilpin, who lived with Mr. Scurr, overheard their discourse, and immediately went to his master's house, and procured a gimblet, when he returned to the field where the sheep was, and, without practice, or skill in the art, began cautiously to operate upon the head of the animal, by boring a hole exactly upon the top of the scalp, which done, the water streamed out of the head, and, strange to say, in a very few minutes the sheep got upon its feet and started to eat grass, and is now doing as well as any of its fellow grass-eaters.—*New Farmer's Journal.*

Remedies for the Prevalent Distemper amongst Cattle.—An old farmer says he lost several cattle before adopting the following method, but since, every one recovers that is attacked:—As soon as the distemper appears, separate the sound cattle from those affected; neither let hay, litter, nor vessels used by the sick, come near the sound cattle; also keep them away from the dung of the sick; give the sick cows warm water to drink, with a very little ammonia, and a handful or two of salt in it; let them have plenty of air and exercise, but don't allow them to stand in a draught or current of air; it will be all the better if tar is put in their trough; they must have no gruel or soft hay; good wiry hay is best as food for them, and an occasional mash; they must have no clothes on. If the hoofs are bad, dress them with rectified spirits of tar. By timely attention to the above plan of treatment, no cattle need be lost.—*Ross-shire Advertiser.*

Prepared Timber.—The Liverpool Standard says, that Mr. Raye, a practical chemist, has discovered a process that renders timber impervious to dry rot, an object of the greatest importance to ship-builders.—Unlike previous inventions of the kind, it does not destroy the edges of the tools used in forming it to any required shape; and what is more peculiar, it in a great measure resists combustion, and even when withdrawn from a fierce fire will become instantly black, and not moulder as ordinary timber would, proving its applicability for the flooring of fire-proof warehouses.

Large Gooseberry.—A day or two ago, a gooseberry was pulled in the garden of Mr. William Stirling, Kirkintilloch, which measured 4¼ by 4¼ inches. This gigantic berry belongs to the class of Lancashire berries, known by the name of the "companion," and is not likely to be matched even in Dumfriesshire.—*Glasgow Argus.*

Cattle in Great Britain and Ireland.—There are, according to Parliamentary returns, 2,250,000 horses, worth about £67,000,000; about 15,000,000 of black cattle, worth about £215,000,000; 50 000,000 of sheep, worth about £67,000,000; and 18,000,000 swine, worth about £18,270,000.—*New Farmer's Journal.*

Extraordinary Pig.—An extraordinary pig was littered at Haxey, on Saturday week. It has eight legs, four ears, four eyes, and what appear to be two heads amalgamated in one. This extraordinary animal, which was littered with thirteen others at the Duke William Inn, Haxey, died soon after its birth.—*Ib.*

Garlic a Cure for Epidemic in Swine.—It was stated at a late meeting of a farming society, that garlic was an effectual cure for the epidemic among pigs; that a few cloves (two or three), bruised and boiled in a little milk, and given when the disease had set in, would immediately counteract it. The following was brought forward, with many others, as a proof of this: A man, who bred pigs extensively, was prevailed upon by a neighboring farmer, to give a few cloves of garlic, in the manner I have stated, to six pigs which had been attacked with the disease. This was done in the evening, and on the following morning they were perfectly recovered; whilst two others that had been attacked by the disease at the same time, in the same piggery, but to which the garlic had not been administered, were found dead. If garlic be such a remedy as the foregoing, which many other cases prove it to be, I think every person should avail himself of this, by planting in his garden a few cloves of this simple cure for a malignant distemper.—*Ib.*

To Diminish the Draught of Plows.—We may consider that upon an average, 35 per cent. of the labor of plowing is attributable to the weight of the implement, 55 per cent. to the operation of cutting the furrow-slice, and only ten to the action of the mould board. This conclusion, if it be correct, reverses most of our pre-conceived opinions on the subject: the attempts which have been made to diminish the draught of plows have been mostly directed to the alteration of the form of the mould board; let our plow-makers direct their efforts more to facilitate the action of the sock and coulter, and to diminish, within safe limits, the weight of the implement, and they will, probably, be more successful in lessening its draught.—*Gar. Chron.*

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Ag. Society for August, was held at the Society's Room in Albany, on the 14th August—Present,

B. P. Johnson, of Oneida, President.
E. P. Prentice, Vice President, Albany
Alexander Walsh, Rensselaer.
George Vail, Rensselaer.
Thomas Hillhouse, Treasurer.
Luther Tucker, Recording Secretary.

Letters were read from Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Auburn; Hon. Luther Bradish, New York; Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., Boston; Isaiah Townsend, Albany; James Gowen, Esq., Philadelphia; James S. Wadsworth, Geneseo; Francis Rotch, London; James Taylor, Birmingham; Hon. John Savage, Salem; Lewis F. Allen, Buffalo; Paris Barber, Homer.

The Board then proceeded to complete the list of Judges to award the Premiums at the next State Fair. The following are the

Judges to Award the Prizes.

Cattle, Class I.—James Gowen, Philadelphia; J. S. Skinner, New York; Thomas Hollis, Gilbertsville.

Cattle, Classes II., III., IV.—Adam Ferguson, Watertown, C. W.; F. Ingersoll, Vernon; D. D. Campbell, Schenectady.

Cattle, Classes V. and VI.—J. R. Speed, Caroline; Wm. Fuller, Skaneateles; Aaron Petrie, Little Falls.

Working Oxen.—Sanford Howard, Albany; Andrew J. Bell, Lairdsville; Squire M. Brown, Elbridge.

Steers.—E. P. Beck, Sheldon; Cliff Eames, Rutland; Israel Boies, Homer.

Fat Cattle and Fat Sheep.—Ela Merriam, Leyden; Lester Barker, Clinton; P. N. Rust, Syracuse.

Stallions.—J. M. Sherwood, Auburn; Wm. Jones, Queens Co.; Edward Long, Cambridge.

Mares and Colts.—Anthony Van Bergen, Coxsackie; Willard Ives, Watertown; F. P. Bellinger, Herkimer.

Matched Horses.—Wm. Salisbury, Leeds; Duncan Robinson, Fishkill; H. S. Woodruff, Auburn.

Sheep, Class I.—W. A. S. North, Duanesburg; Robt. Musson, Gilbertsville; Jas. Parker, Jr., Trenton.

Sheep, Class II.—S. Waite, Jr., Montgomery; W. H. Sotham, Albany; Lyman Sherwood, Auburn.

Sheep, Class III.—Chester Buck, Lowville; Samuel Cheever, Stillwater; D. R. Gill, Henderson.

Sheep, Class IV.—J. P. Beekman, Kinderhook; J. M. Ellis. Onondaga Hill; M. Y. Tilden, New Lebanon.

Swine.—L. B. Langworthy, Rochester; George Webb, Pamelia; Hiram Hopkins, Cortlandville.

Poultry.—C. N. Bement, Albany; T. H. Hyatt, Rochester; Storrs Barrows, South Trenton.

Vegetables.—D. B. Fuller, Hyde Park; B. W. Dwight, Clinton; H. L. R. Sanford, Volney.

Plows.—George Geddes, Tyler; C. C. Dennis, Auburn; M. L. Brainerd, Rome.

Waggons, Harrows, Cultivators, Fanning Mills, Machines for cutting corn stalks, Horse Powers and Threshing Machines, Drill Barrows and Straw Cutters.—H. S. Randall, Cortlandville; G. W. Patterson, Westfield; Myron Adams, East Bloomfield.

All other Agricultural Implements.—Pomeroy Jones, Lairdsville; John Williams, Jr., Salem; T. R. Hussey, Auburn.

Butter.—E. W. Bateman, Venice; Z. Barton Stout, Richmond Hill; Elijah Rhoades, Manlius.

Cheese.—T. C. Peters, Darien; Thomas Burch, Little Falls; Harrison Blodgett, Denmark.

Sugar.—O. Hungerford, Watertown; E. Mack, Ithaca; George B. Rowe, Canastota.

Silk.—Alexander Walsh, Lansingburgh; Samuel Thompson, Utica; John Walsh, Albany.

Domestic Manufactures.—Judge Conkling, Auburn; Roswell Randall, Cortlandville; Le Grand Cannon, Troy.

Fruits.—J. J. Thomas, Macedon; Chas. Downing, Newburgh; P. Barry, Rochester.

Flowers.—Professor Jackson, Schenectady; Benjamin Hodge, Buffalo; Charles Tracey, Utica.

Plowing Match.—Lewis F. Allen, Buffalo; N. S. Wright, Vernon Centre; E. Marks, Tyler; Wm. Otley, Oaks Corners; John Johnston, Geneva.

Miscellaneous and Discretionary Premiums.—Thomas Farrington, Oswego; B. N. Huntington, Rome; Joel Rathbone, Albany; J. J. Viele, Lansingburgh; Oliver Phelps, Canandaigua.

Transportation of Stock.

The Committee, on this subject, reported that arrangements had been made with the different Railroad Companies, whose officers, with their usual liberality, had agreed to transport *free of charge*, all animals and articles designed for exhibition at the Fair.

They further reported, that extra trains would be run, in which visitors to the Fair will be carried for a sum not exceeding half the usual rates on the roads. Of their times of starting, notice will be given, as soon as the arrangements are completed.

Splendid Sample of Wheat.

The Recording Secretary presented the following letter with the accompanying sack of wheat:—

L. Tucker, Esq., Rec. Sec'. N.Y. S. Ag. Society.

Sir—I send you for the State Agricultural Society, a sack of the wheat considered the best grown in old Castile, and sent me lately by a friend in the north of Spain.

The Talavera wheat, already familiar to English and American farmers, is also a Spanish variety. It came originally from Estremadura, a province in the south of old Castile, and of a milder, more uniform climate. The Castilian wheat, it may therefore be inferred, will prove a hardier species.

I have sent to Gen. Rawson Harmon a similar sack, and proposed to him, should its introduction be accomplished under his experienced and enlightened management, to name this variety the *Aguirre wheat*, after D. Macsimo Aguirre, our excellent Consul at Bilboa, to whose good offices I am indebted for the specimens I have received.

Gen. Harmon remitted me last winter, for a friend in France, several varieties grown under his care at Wheatland. Ten kernels taken indiscriminately from these, weighed,

of White Provence (French),	8½	grains
Wheatland Red,	5½	"
Virginia May,	5	"
Soul's Red,	5 4-10	"
Soul's White,	5 4-10	"
Talavera,	7	"
Improved White Flint, (*a*)	5	"
The " Aguirre" weighed	8½	"

A person as little acquainted practically with the tillage of wheat as the writer, would infer from the above table, that a certain weight of French Provence, White, or " Aguirre wheat," would furnish a greater amount of flour, and less amount of bran, than an equal weight of either of the other varieties.

The bread made from the wheat of old Castile, I have never seen surpassed in whiteness. In Spain, as you are perhaps aware, this universal article of consumption is not leavened.

What I send is for distribution, if you think worth while. I will seal up four or five pounds which might be kept in the rooms of the Society, as a standard whereby to determine the changes the wheat may undergo by culture in America.

Respectfully, yours, Isaiah Townsend.

P. S. I have just had weighed a half-peck of the wheat. The weight was 8 lbs. 9 oz., avoirdupois. This would give 68¾ lbs. to the bushel. As this exceeds by 2¾ lbs. the heaviest wheat (Hungarian) in Lawson's Museum (Vide his Agriculturalist's Manual, p. 14), I think it wants verifying by a better balance than that I used, the scales of a corner grocery. I. T.

On motion of the President,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Mr. Townsend for the splendid specimen of wheat accompanying the above letter; and that the same be distributed to members of the Society, with a request that they make trial of the same, and report the result to the Society.

The President was requested to procure a windlass and dynamometer, for the trial of plows.

The Recording Secretary and Treasurer were directed to procure the necessary badges and tickets for the ensuing Fair.

The Recording Secretary presented a copy of the 9th vol. of the *Farmer's Cabinet*, from the publisher, J. TATEM, Esq., for which the thanks of the Society were voted.

The fifth annual Fair and Show of the State Agricultural Society is approaching, and the interest which is manifested, shows that our Society has lost none of the confidence of the agriculturists of the State. The previous exhibitions have been attended by immense gatherings from different parts of our own State, as well as large numbers from other States in the Union.

The location of the Fair at Utica being near the centre of the State, will undoubtedly secure a larger attendance than at any previous Fair of the Society.

The arrangements it is believed will be such as to meet the expectations of the public, and the citizens of Utica are making preparations that will insure suitable accommodations for all who may be in attendance.

The list of premiums of the Society embraces a very great variety of articles—and are so extended as to secure a very spirited competition.

In the appointment of the Judges the officers have selected such names as will secure the confidence of the public, in the awards that may be made.

We would urge upon the friends of agriculture throughout the State, to make vigorous efforts to bring out our citizens at the approaching Fair. Every year we have added to the list of our friends, from those who have attended our exhibitions, and we desire still to add to their numbers, until every farmer in the State, as well as every other citizen, shall take a deep interest in our Society, which is identified with the permanent prosperity of the State.

Arrangements have been made for the ladies, that will secure a tasteful display of the articles they may exhibit; and it is hoped that in this department we shall witness a display excelling that at any former meeting of the Society.

REGULATIONS FOR THE SHOW.

All members of the Society, and all who may become members at the time of the Fair, by the payment of $1.00, will be furnished with BADGES which will admit the person and his wife and children under 21 years of age, to the exhibition, at all times during the Fair. Tickets to admit a single person, 12½ cents.

Members will be allowed to enter in carriages with their families, but no hacks or other public conveyances will be permitted to enter except when the inmates are members of the Society, without paying a dollar for each entrance, and the inmates, if not members, to furnish themselves with tickets.

Gentlemen may become members and obtain badges at the stage office of J. BUTTERFIELD & Co.; and at the bookstores of I. TIFFANY, G. TRACEY and BENNETT, BACKUS & HAWLEY, Genesee street, Utica, or at the Business Office at the show-yard.

All exhibitors at the Fair must become members of the Society, and have their articles entered at the Business Office before taking them into the enclosure.

All those who intend to compete for the premiums on agricultural implements, butter and cheese, sugar, cocoons, silk, &c., should have their specimens on the ground on the 16th, that they may be deposited in their appropriate places, and the rooms suitably arranged on the day previous to the Fair.

No premiums will be paid on animals or articles taken away before the close of the Fair.

Everything intended for the exhibition must be on the ground at or before nine o'clock, on the morning of Wednesday, the seventeenth.

Animals and other articles offered for exhibition, must be labelled with the owner's name and residence at full length.

THE COMMITTEES TO AWARD PREMIUMS.

The several Committees to award Premiums are requested to report themselves at the Society's room, at BAGG'S HOTEL, on Tuesday evening, the 16th, or at the business office on the show grounds previous to ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, the 17th, after which all vacancies will be filled, and the committees will enter upon their duties at twelve o'clock.

The Judges are requested to furnish their awards to the Recording Secretary by twelve o'clock on Thursday, that a list may be made out from which the Treasurer can pay the prizes immediately on the Reports being read from the stand.

The Judges will not award the prizes offered, unless in their opinions the animals or articles exhibited are worthy of the premiums.

Prize animals and implements at the previous exhibitions will be allowed to compete for the prizes; but they must receive a higher prize, or in a different class, to entitle them to a premium. Should the same premium heretofore given them be awarded, they will receive a certificate to that effect instead of the prize.

No viewing committee, with the exception of the Committee on Discretionary Premiums, shall award any discretionary premium, without the previous permission of the Executive Board, expressed through the President.

The annual Address will be delivered, under the large tent, at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, by Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, Jr., of Boston.

Immediately after the Address, the Reports of the Committees to award the Premiums will be read, and the Premiums paid at the Treasurer's office. The Treasurer will also be in attendance at the Society's Room, at Bagg's Hotel, on Thursday evening and on Friday, for the purpose of paying Premiums.

On Thursday afternoon, the PREMIUM ANIMALS will be exhibited on the grounds, separate from the others, with cards showing the premium awarded to each animal, so that the public may have an opportunity of viewing the animals which have been adjudged worthy of the Premiums of the Society.

TRANSPORTATION OF STOCK.

Arrangements have been made with the different Railroad Companies, whose officers, with their usual liberality, have agreed to transport, *free of charge*, all animals and articles designed for exhibition at the Fair.

Gentlemen who intend to send their stock by the railroad, must give notice at least one week previous to the Fair, to LUTHER TUCKER, Albany; M. D. BURNET, Syracuse; J. M. SHERWOOD, Auburn, L. B. LANGWORTHY, Rochester; or L. F. ALLEN,

Buffalo, so that the necessary preparations may be made by the companies for their transportation.

Extra trains of cars, both east and west of Utica, will be run, in which visitors to the Fair will be carried for a sum not exceeding half the usual rates on the roads. Of their times of starting, notice will be given as soon as the arrangements are completed. The Packet Boat Companies have made arrangements to facilitate the conveyance of visitors at reasonable rates.

It is expected that the operations of the MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH will be exhibited on the grounds during the Fair. It is intended by the proprietors of this work, to have it ready for operation from Utica to Little Falls, a distance of twenty miles.

Articles designed for exhibition at the Fair, may be directed to the care of FARWELL & HARRINGTON, Utica, who will take charge of them as directed by the owners.

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(*a*) These weighed respectively, after being soaked 36 hours in a strong solution sulphate ammonia, 11—6¾—6¾—6¾—9—7¼ grains. I have not soaked any of the Castilian variety.

Editor's Table.

Destruction of Sheep by Dogs.—The Frankfort Commonwealth says that a few nights ago, 63 choice ewes, selected for breeders on account of their wool, owned by Captain John A. Holton, of Franklin county, were killed by dogs. Mr. Payne recently had 40 sheep killed and 20 wounded, and these are only common occurrences in Kentucky. It is a pity all dogs could not be dispensed with there, except those of the shepherd breed.

Manufacture of Castor Oil.—This was commenced in Illinois about twenty years ago. The produce the first year, was 500 gallons. In 1831, 10,000 gallons were made. It appears the quantity now manufactured in Illinois and Missouri is above 100,000 gallons—the produce of about 10,000 acres of land.

Oxalic Acid in Rhubarb or Pie Plant.—A family of four persons in this city, recently, after eating freely of the leaves of the domestic rhubarb or pie plant, boiled, and served as "greens," were, all of them, shortly seized with severe vomiting. In one of the persons it was followed by gastritis. The others recovered directly after the vomiting. We have occasionally seen notices in newspapers of this plant producing noxious effects. Will some of our chemical friends furnish us with a quantitative analysis of it, with reference especially to the proportion of oxalic acid which it contains?—*Buffalo Med. Journ.*

Sugar Cane.—The first sugar cane was brought to the bank of the Mississippi in 1751. It came in a French ship of recruits. The cane was planted by the Jesuits, where now is the second municipality of New Orleans. The period elapsed is ninety-four years, and in that time the product of sugar on the Mississippi alone has increased to about 200,000 hogsheads, and that in the United States to 126,400,310 lbs: while the price has also decreased from 50 cents per lb. in 1760, to 5 and 6 in 1845.—*South West. Farmer.*

Galls from the Harness or Saddle.—Major Long, in his expedition to the Rocky Mountains, says that his party found white lead, moistened with milk, to succeed better than anything else in preventing the bad effects of galls on their horses' backs, in their fatiguing march over the plains that border the mountains.

Culture of the Orange.—The Savannah Republican says, that the groves on many of the islands along their coast, are in a high state of prosperity, and that the yield the last season was more than usually abundant. A gentleman south of that, informs them, that his trees are apparently more thrifty now than were those grown by him prior to 1835, and which were killed by the great frost of that year. His yield this year has been about 40,000, and should the next season be as favorable as the last, his crop, he thinks, will reach 100,000.

Ditching Machine.—One of these has been invented at Chicago, which promises to supersede the use of spades. By the assistance of two yoke of oxen and two men, it will cut a ditch two feet deep by three feet at the top, and eighteen inches at the bottom, at the rate of 20 roods per day.

CHOICE PEACHES. During the first week in August, we received from Nathan Boulton, Esq., of Pencada, Newcastle County, Delaware, through Mr. Fields, of this city, a basket of Early Rare ripe peaches, the first bearing of a young tree, producing two full baskets. The fruit was large, clear, and delicious, and a very acceptable present, for which we return the donor many thanks.

LOWELL AS IT WAS AND AS IT IS. By Rev. Henry A. Miles. Powers & Bagley, and N. L. Dayton, Lowell. A beautiful little volume of 234 pages, got up in the neatest style of typography, and illustrated with a map and pretty view of the town and surrounding country. The thriving city of Lowell and its various manufactures, but, above all, its *factory girls*, has become quite a lion the world over, and to the thousands who are curious for full information on this highly interesting, and we may add very important subject—we recommend the above volume to their perusal. Its elaborate statistical tables prove one thing at least, that manufactories conducted upon the Lowell principle, may not only add to the resources and wealth of the country at large, prove of incalculable benefit to agriculture, but at the same time advance the pecuniary interests of the operatives, improving with an equal step their intellectual and moral faculties. Instead of being a curse to the country, as a few bigoted and prejudiced persons may suppose, such cities as Lowell are a great blessing to it in every sense of the word.

ORATION Delivered before the Agricultural and Mechanics' Association of Louisiana. By Judge P. A. Rost. This is an able, a well timed, and highly useful discourse, occupying a pamphlet of 16 pages. We had marked several passages for extracts, but find no room for them this month. We are obliged to the unknown friend who sent us this Oration.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE commences a new volume, and may be had of Leonard Scott & Co., 112 Fulton street. Price $3 a-year.

THE FARMER'S LIBRARY AND MONTHLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE. The second number of this valuable periodical, edited by Mr. Skinner, made its appearance promptly in August. The lithograph engravings are the celebrated trotter, Lady Suffolk, and the Canada thistle. The articles throughout are well written and selected.

THE AMERICAN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE. The third number of this excellent periodical, edited by Dr. Emmons and Dr. Prime, came to hand last month. We were particularly interested in an article on the Geology of Agriculture, as well as several others. We hope this journal may be sustained.

THE SOUTH WESTERN FARMER. We sincerely regret to see that this highly useful paper has been obliged to stop for want of proper support. It was published at Raymond, Miss., and edited by Mr. North and Dr. Philips. We hope it may soon be revived.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. H. Jenne, E. S., Philip Winfree, John P. Norton, H., and B. B., are received.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

PRICES CURRENT IN NEW YORK, AUGUST 25, 1845.

ASHES, Pots,	per 100 lbs.	$3 75	to	$3 81
Pearls,	do.	4 6	"	4 12
BALE ROPE,	lb.	6	"	9
BARK, Quercitron,	ton,	22 00	"	23 50
BEANS, White,	bush.	1 12	"	1 25
BEESWAX, Am. Yellow,	lb.	28	"	33
BOLT ROPE,	do.	12	"	13
BONES, ground,	bush.	40	"	50
BRISTLES, American,	lb.	25	"	65
BUTTER, Table,	do.	16	"	22
Shipping,	do.	9	"	13
CANDLES, Mould, Tallow,	do.	9	"	11
Sperm,	do.	25	"	38
Stearine,	do.	20	"	25
CHEESE,	do.	4	"	8
COAL, Anthracite,	2000 lbs.	4 50	"	5 50
CORDAGE, American,	lb.	11	"	12
COTTON,	do.	5	"	10
COTTON BAGGING, Amer. hemp,	yard,	12	"	13
American Flax,	do.	16	"	17
FEATHERS,	lb.	26	"	33
FLAX, American,	do.	6½	"	7½
FLOUR, Northern and Western,	bbl.	4 25	"	4 75
Fancy,	do.	5 00	"	5 50
Southern,	do.	4 00	"	4 75
Richmond City Mills,	do.	6 00	"	6 25
Rye,	do.	3 00	"	3 25
GRAIN—Wheat, Western,	bush.	95	"	1 00
Southern,	do.	85	"	95
Rye,	do.	69	"	75
Corn, Northern,	do.	60	"	64
Southern,	do.	58	"	60
Barley,	do.	50	"	52
Oats, Northern,	do.	41	"	42
Southern,	do.	34	"	36
GUANO,	100 lbs.	2 50	"	3 00
HAY,	do.	75	"	1 00
HEMP, Russia, clean,	ton,	180 00	"	185 00
American, water-rotted,	do.	105 00	"	185 00
American, dew-rotted,	do.	75 00	"	125 00
HIDES, Dry Southern,	lb.	9	"	11
HOPS	lb.	12	"	16
HORNS,	100.	2 00	"	8 50
LEAD.	lb.	3	"	4
Sheet and bar	do.	4¾	"	5¼
MEAL, Corn,	bbl.	2 31	"	2 56
Corn,	hhd.	11 50	"	12 00
MOLASSES, New Orleans,	gal.	28	"	31
MUSTARD, American,	lb.	16	"	31
NAVAL STORES—Tar,	bbl.	2 25	"	2 37
Pitch,	do	80	"	1 00
Rosin	do.	55	"	70
Turpentine,	do.	2 75	"	3 25
Spirits Turpentine, Southern,	gal.	37	"	40
OIL, Linseed, American,	do.	66	"	70
Castor,	do.	57	"	68
Lard,	do.	55	"	70
OIL CAKE,	100 lbs.	1 00	"	—
PEAS, Field,	bush.	1 25	"	1 50
PLASTER OF PARIS,	ton,	2 75	"	3 00
Ground, in bbls.,	of 300 lbs.	1 12	"	1 25
PROVISIONS—Beef, Mess,	bbl.	8 00	"	10 00
Prime,	do.	5 50	"	6 50
Smoked,	lb.	6	"	8
Rounds, in pickle,	do.	4	"	6
Pork, Mess,	bbl.	12 00	"	14 00
Prime,	do.	9 00	"	11 00
Lard,	lb.	7½	"	8½
Bacon sides, Smoked,	do.	3	"	4
In pickle,	do.	3	"	4
Hams, Smoked,	do.	6	"	10
Pickled,	do.	4	"	7
Shoulders, Smoked,	do.	5	"	6½
Pickled,	do.	4½	"	5
RICE,	100 lbs.	3 75	"	4 38
SALT,	sack,	1 35	"	1 48
Common,	bush.	20	"	30
SEEDS—Clover,	lb.	8	"	9½
Timothy,	7 bush.	13 50	"	17 00
Flax, rough,	do.	8 50	"	9 00
clean,	do.	11 00	"	12 00
SODA, Ash, cont'g 80 per cent. soda,	lb.	3	"	3
Sulphate Soda, ground,	do.	1	"	—
SUGAR, New Orleans,	do.	5	"	8
SUMAC, American,	ton,	35 00	"	37 50
TALLOW,	lb.	6½	"	7½
TOBACCO	do.	3	"	7
WHISKEY, American,	gal.	23	"	24
WOOL, Saxony,	lb.	35	"	50
Merino,	do.	30	"	35
Half-blood,	do.	25	"	30
Common,	do.	20	"	25

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET—Aug. 25.

At Market, 1800 Beef Cattle; 150 Southern; 50 Cows, and 3100 Sheep and Lambs.

PRICES.—Beef Cattle.—A very dull market, and sales effected only at a decline. We quote $3a$5.50 as the general range, with a few choice at 6 cts. Left over, 600 head.

COWS AND CALVES.—All at market sold at $14a$26.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Sheep may be quoted at 75 cts. a $3, and Lambs 87½ cts. a $2.50 and a good demand.

HAY—All at market taken at 87½ cts. a $1.12½ per cwt. for loose.

REMARKS.—*Ashes* steady and in fair request. *Cotton* has experienced a slight decline, and is heavy. Export since the 1st September last, 2,070,271 bales; same time last year, 1,602,619; same time, year before, 2,000,769. *Flour* and *Meal*.—A good demand for export has sprung up, since the arrival of the last steamer. *Grain* of all kinds in moderate request. *Hay* inactive. *Naval Stores*, a light stock on hand. *Pork* and *Beef* are on the advance again, with moderate stocks in market. *Lard* quite active. *Rice* an upward tendency. *Seeds* a good demand. *Sugar* and *Tobacco* the same. *Wool*.—Since our editorial, page 270, written a fortnight since, quite an active demand has sprung up, and the finer qualities have advanced 1 to 2 cents per pound. Some 30,000 lbs. have been shipped the past month for England and France.

Money the same as at our last.

Stocks firmer since a war with Mexico is not so threatening.

The Weather. In this vicinity the weather has continued very hot, with copious showers, since the first week in August. We believe this has generally been the case north of us; but in some districts of the west, and particularly along the sea shore at the south, great want of rain has been felt. Such a dry season has not been known since the year 1795. As to the crops, we find such differences of opinion, that it is almost impossible to reconcile them, and fuse into one mass the discrepant reports. We believe, however, that the wheat crop, as a whole, never was better. Rye, oats, and barley, fair; corn, with the exception of partial failures, promising at the north and west; at the south not so good—in some districts not half a crop; hay not over two-thirds of a crop, so far as weight is concerned. But as an offset to this, it has been uncommonly well secured, and the weather being so dry, it is of a superior nutritious quality. Potatoes are turning out better than was anticipated, and we hear little more of the rot. Other kinds of roots are looking well, and turnips are particularly promising. Cotton will be a large crop, except in South Carolina and Georgia. Tobacco is heavy in Missouri and Kentucky, but light in Virginia. Hemp nearly the same. Rice about an average. Sugar very promising, both in Texas and Louisiana.

N. Y. AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE.

Having taken the commodious store, No. 187 Water Street, the subscriber is now opening the LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE assortment of Agricultural Implements of all kinds, ever yet offered in this market. Most of these are of new and highly improved pattern, warranted to be made of the best materials, put together in the strongest manner, of a very superior finish, and offered at the lowest cash prices.

SEEDS FOR THE FARMER.

Such as Improved Winter and Spring Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Corn, Beans, Peas, Rutabaga, Turnip, Cabbage, Beet, Carrot, Parsnep, Clover and Grass-seeds, improved varieties of Potatoes.

WIRE-CLOTHS AND SIEVES.

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The subscriber requests samples sent to him of any new or improved Implements, Seeds, &c., &c., which, if found valuable, extra pains will be taken to bring them before the public.

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DEVON CATTLE FOR SALE.

E. P. Beck will sell at public sale, on Wednesday the 15th of October next at his dwelling in Sheldon, Wyoming co., N. Y., a large portion of his valuable stock of pure Devon Cattle. It consists of calves, yearlings, steers, heifers, cows, and bulls of various ages. One year's credit will be given on approved security to all who wish it.

Sheldon, Aug. 20, 1845. 2t

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During the fair of the American Institute, in October, the subscriber will be in attendance at Niblo's Garden, with specimens of the fruit of his superior cranberries. He will also have cranberry vines for sale in lots to suit purchasers.

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The subscriber offers for sale his fine Durham Bull Osceola. He is now two years and a half old, and has taken the first premium at two successive State shows. For pedigree and further description, see Cultivator, Sept., 1843.

Also, his thorough-bred Stallion Young Florizal.

CLARKSON F. CROSBY.

Watervliet, July 1, 1845. 2t*

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Sinclair's Stalk and Straw Cutters,			price $25 to $35.
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Other kinds for straw and hay,			$3 to $7.

8 A. B. ALLEN, 187 Water St., N. Y.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

J. M. THORBURN & Co., 15 John street, New York, and Astoria, Long Island, beg to inform the Horticultural public, that they have now ready for delivery, 5000 of *Myatt's Eliza* Strawberry Plants which they have proved by fruiting in beds for two seasons past, and can with confidence recommend this excellent Strawberry to the most limited grower. In England, where it originated, it maintains to this day its celebrity, and in Covent Garden market, London, yields to no other sort than the British Queen, which the Eliza is the parent of. It is of a large size, fine pine flavor, and cockscomb form, bright red color, and erect habit. Price for strong rooted plants in pots, 75 cts. per dozen; out of pots from the bed, $3 per hundred.

Also, *Myatt's British Queen*, unrivalled for every excellent quality, has fruited splendidly in a large bed the present season, and is indispensable to the smallest cultivator. No new sort in England equals it for general good qualities; nor in this country approaches it. Strong rooted plants in pots, $1 per dozen, and from the bed strong plants, $5 per hundred.

Also, *Prince Albert*, very large and fine, great bearer, fine shape and beautiful color. $1 per dozen; $5 per hundred. It is one of the best sorts for forcing in pots.

Also, *Hovey's Seedling*, a well known good sort. $1.50 per hundred; $5 per thousand.

Also, *Ross's Phœnix*, one of the best American varieties, well known around Hudson and Albany as a fine productive kind, $1.50 per hundred; $5 per thousand.

Also, *Scotch Pine Apple*, a very bright colored, oblong fruit, of a sprightly pine apple flavor. $1.50 per hundred; $5 per thousand.

The above are quoted at prices which will encourage any one to plant a good sized bed at once. They will produce moderately next spring, and abundantly hereafter.

Strawberries, to bear fruit in perfection, should be kept clear of runners which can be used for forming new beds. A covering of three inches stable manure in winter is very serviceable, which fork in early in the spring. Keep well clear of weeds and a good crop will follow. Place the plants 18 inches apart in the rows, and an alley of two feet between the rows.

Orders will meet prompt despatch and careful packing and forwarding.

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BOSTON PINE.

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August and September are favorable months for planting strawberries: all orders promptly executed.

Catalogues of Fruit Trees, Roses, &c., &c., forwarded to every *post paid* applicant.

Sept., 1845. HOVEY & Co.

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LOUISVILLE, KY., SEED AND AGRICULTURAL STORE.

Red Clover,	Red Top,
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A supply of the above seed, crop of 1845, on hand and for sale by GEORGE, LAPPING, & Co.

Orders from abroad promptly attended to.

Louisville, Ky. Sept., 1845. 2t*

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Descriptive Catalogues, with directions for planting and culture, furnished gratis, on application to the new proprietors by mail, post paid, and orders promptly executed.

WINTER & CO., Proprietors.

Flushing, L. I., Sept. 2, 1845. 2t

A SHEPHERD WANTED.

A person competent to manage a large flock of sheep, see to their shearing, and putting up the wool properly for the New York market, is wanted to go to Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The wages offered are from $150 to $200 a year, with house and provisions. The country there is perfectly healthy, and the situation agreeable. Apply to

WILLIAM THOMPSON, Harrodsburg, Ky., or
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A small cargo is daily expected from the Chincha Islands, of the best quality, and will be sold in bags at the following rates:

In quantities of 100 bags or more, 2¼ cents per lb.
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Bags average about 125 lbs. each.

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The subscriber offers a few two year old bucks for sale, got by Mr. D. C. Collins' celebrated Rambouillet buck Grandee, out of superior pure bred Merino ewes. Price $20 to $50. Also pure bred Merino bucks of various ages, and at different prices, according to age and quality.

We can ship sheep to any port in the country. For an account of the shearing of our flock, we would refer to the August number of the Agriculturist, page 240, and believe our stock equal to any in the country.

Apply to LEWIS G. COLLINS, Washington, Duchess Co., N. Y., or to R. R. & L. G. COLLINS, Butternuts, Otsego Co., N. Y.

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Nine head of this valuable breed of animals are now offered for sale by the Subscriber, he having more than he can well keep on his farm.

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Eunice, 5 years old, bulled by my imported Duke of Wellington, 25th June, is a good milker, her dam having given 32 quarts a day on pasture only.

Julia, 4 years old, recently bulled by Meteor.

Lily, 2 years old, bulled by Meteor 9th June.

Three yearling Heifers, got by Wellington and Meteor, and a yearling Bull got by Meteor.

These animals will be sold at $100 to $125 per head. A credit will be given of six months or a year, if desired, for approved paper.

Gentlemen desirous of procuring the blood of the celebrated herd of Thomas Bates, Esq., of Yorkshire, England, may now have an opportunity of doing so, as the young animals possess that blood on the side of their sires; and the cows are in calf by Meteor and Wellington. The cows are descendants of the Bullock stock of Durhams. For the good milking qualities of these animals, &c., I would refer to the editor of the American Agriculturist. Letters, post paid, will receive an answer.

Troy, July 25, 1845. GEO. VAIL.

HARMON'S IMPROVED WHITE FLINT WHEAT.

The subscriber has just received a lot of this superior Seed Wheat, direct from the farm of General Harmon. He writes, that owing to the excessive drouth the past season, the berry is not quite as white and plump in appearance as usual, but the quantity of the flour is fully equal, and the seed may be depended upon to produce as good a crop. It is in barrels of about 3½ bushels each, and will be delivered on board vessel at $7 the single barrel, or $6.50 where three or more are taken at one time.

s A. B. ALLEN, 187 Water St., N. Y.

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